

the House does two things Democrats have pushed for: It will avert a shutdown, and it will do so without making any terrible, hard-right cuts that the MAGA rightwing demands. It also eliminates the poison pills that so many MAGA Congress Members put in the bills.

We will see over the course of today how the House moves forward. Over the past few days, a significant portion of the Speaker's hard-right flank has torched his proposal precisely because it doesn't make cuts. I hope the Speaker does not yield to the demands of the hard right as we try to keep the government open. Instead, I hope the Speaker continues to recognize he will need Democratic votes in order to avoid a shutdown.

MILITARY PROMOTIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on Senator TUBERVILLE, today, the Senate Rules Committee will mark up a resolution allowing the Senate to quickly confirm the military promotions currently being blocked by Senator TUBERVILLE. I will join the Rules Committee later today—I am a member of the committee; it is the only committee on which I serve—and vote in favor of this resolution. I will vote in favor of the Rules Committee's resolution.

For 9 months, Senator TUBERVILLE has thumbed his nose at longstanding Senate custom and prevented the swift, bipartisan confirmations of hundreds of generals and flag officers. Each time Members from both sides have tried to reason with Senator TUBERVILLE, he has only dug in further.

As a result of Senator TUBERVILLE's holds, America's national security is now paying the price. Our military readiness is paying the price, and our military spouses and kids, who can't plan the next chapters in their lives even though they have served us for many, many years—they pay the price too.

Patience is wearing thin with Senator TUBERVILLE on both sides of the aisle. I strongly support this resolution to overcome these military holds, and if it is reported out of committee today and if our Republican colleagues cannot soon convince Senator TUBERVILLE to drop his holds, I will bring it to the floor for a vote.

I thank Chair KLOBUCHAR and Chairman REED for their good work on moving this important resolution.

STUDENT LOANS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on the student debt CRA, as soon as today, Senate Republicans will force a vote on a cruel measure to eliminate President Biden's historic Student Loan Repayment Program and strip away a critical lifeline for millions and millions of borrowers. I strongly oppose this terrible Republican measure to deny American families a critical

lifeline just 1 month after the pause on student loan payments ended.

My Republican colleagues talk a big game about helping working families, but with this student debt congressional resolution, they are actively trying to block relief that would immediately improve the lives of so many working Americans. The hypocrisy is glaring. Republicans are willing to give huge tax breaks to ultrawealthy billionaires and large corporations, but when it comes to helping working families, Republicans refuse to give them a break. They say that it costs too much money. But billionaire tax cuts don't? Give me a break.

Right now, there are over 5.5 million borrowers involved in President Biden's SAVE Plan, including nearly 300,000 in my home State of New York alone. So the worst thing we could do for these borrowers and these families right now is let this Republican CRA pass and strip away this critical lifeline.

I will strongly oppose this Republican CRA to overturn student debt relief, and Democrats will keep working to make sure relief reaches every borrower in need.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on the Supreme Court, yesterday, for the first time, the U.S. Supreme Court announced the adoption of an ethical code of conduct for Justices. At a time when Americans' trust in the High Court is deeply, deeply shaken, the Supreme Court has taken an important step to lay down basic rules of the road for our Justices. Frankly, this should have happened a long time ago. Lower courts have long been required to embrace an ethical code of conduct, and there is no reason that the Supreme Court should not have done the same.

Now, while the Supreme Court's announcement was important, its lack of enforceability is a glaring omission. Justices, it seems, are left to their own devices in applying this code to themselves. Frankly, Americans could be excused if they are skeptical after everything they have read in the paper about Justices accepting lavish gifts and vacationing with ultrarich ideologues, some of whom bring cases before the Court.

SHELDON WHITEHOUSE said it well. He said: It is as if they are agreeing to the rules of baseball but no umpires.

So, while the Justices' code of conduct is a necessary and important step, it cannot be the final word. The public's trust in our courts is a key feature of our democratic society, and there is a lot of work left to do before that trust is fully restored. Congress must—must—continue its efforts to hold the judiciary accountable.

HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now on an FCC letter, last month, my

colleagues and I wrote the FCC, urging them to adopt a number of key principles from our infrastructure law that fight against digital discrimination and ensure equal access to high-speed internet. Well, I have good news. The FCC heard us loud and clear and will vote tomorrow to implement the provisions I pushed with my colleagues to ensure everyone can access high-speed internet no matter what ZIP Code they live in.

The digital divide has caused our country so much damage. It has shut out rural, urban, and low-income Americans, including far too many women and people of color, for whom basic internet access remains unavailable or unaffordable.

I am proud of the great work we did to address the digital divide in our bipartisan infrastructure law.

Now I encourage all of the FCC Commissioners to take advantage of the provisions in our infrastructure law so that underserved communities can access high-speed internet just like everybody else.

JUDICIAL CONFIRMATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on a circuit court judge, last night, the Senate confirmed the 37th circuit court judge under President Biden: Ana de Alba to serve as circuit court judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Judge de Alba's confirmation is significant. She is the 30th Hispanic judge confirmed by this Democratic majority under President Biden. With the confirmation of this 30th Hispanic judge, that is the most Hispanic judges confirmed by any President in one term—something we can all be proud of. That is the most Hispanic judges ever confirmed by any President in his first term—30—30 new Hispanic judges.

We are making the bench look more like America. One judge at a time, Democrats are making our courts look more like America—greater diversity, more women, a broader range of professional and personal experiences. We will keep going.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday, the Supreme Court announced its adoption of a code of ethics. The Court produced the code internally and adopted it unanimously. In

other words, as I expected, a coequal branch of government conducted its business independently, which sounds an awful lot like the separation of powers envisioned in the Constitution.

Certainly, that hasn't deterred Senate Democrats from their obsessive effort to bend the Court to their will. In fact, their monthslong smear campaign—disguised as an effort to make the senior-most jurists in the country, duly confirmed by the Senate, more “accountable” to the American people—unfortunately, continues apace. We know what our colleagues really mean by “accountability.” It is code for “intimidation.”

I am sure that this sort of accountability is exactly what the Justices and their families felt as the Biden administration declined to enforce Federal law and protect them in their homes from angry mobs or when Senate Democrats threatened to slash the Court security budget in the face of death threats or on any number of occasions when our colleagues have issued ominous, veiled warnings about “restructuring” or outright threats that Justices would “pay the price.”

This week, Democrats on the Judiciary Committee are at it again. Our colleagues planned last week to threaten legal action against private citizens who decline to indulge their sham trial of the Justices. The only problem? Republicans on the committee submitted too many commonsense amendments, and the majority worried that some of them might pass with bipartisan support.

But regardless of how Senate Democrats choose to spend their time, I will repeat what I have said before: I have the utmost confidence in each one of the Justices of our Nation's highest Court, and they should continue to pay this intimidation campaign no mind.

INFLATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, now on another matter, this morning's October inflation report tells a story that has become familiar on President Biden's watch. Prices remain stubbornly high and well above the Federal Reserve's 2-percent target. Prices are up 3.2 per year over year, and cumulative inflation since the President took office now clocks in at 17.6 percent.

Even as the rate prices are growing ebbs, working Americans are growing more frustrated with an expensive new normal. The price of a gallon of milk has risen 15.8 percent since January of 2021. Meanwhile, a gallon of gas is going for 54.8 percent more. As one small business owner in Texas put it to reporters recently, he said:

I'm trying to think of one area where prices have eased, and I can't think of anything.

Earlier this month, President Biden told a gathering in rural Minnesota that “Bidenomics is just another way of saying ‘the American Dream.’” The

American people are just simply not buying that.

According to one recent survey, only 14 percent of U.S. voters have said President Biden has made them better off, and 65 percent of voters said they had cut back on nonessential spending.

So, if the President thinks that Bidenomics is the American dream, he might want to pay closer attention to how many Americans are desperate to wake up.

MARCH FOR ISRAEL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on one final matter, today, our Nation's Capital will welcome a rally of Jewish Americans and friends of Israel. The participants in today's events are gathering in mourning, in worry, in fear, and in shared resolve.

In the dark days since the terrorist massacre of October 7, their message has been crystal clear: There is no moral equivalence between terrorism and self-defense. Israel has a right to exist, and Jews everywhere have a right to live without fear.

These basic truths should be obvious and unimpeachable. But if anyone failed to see the creeping advance of anti-Semitism across the West in recent years, if any corner of our society let itself believe that this unique hatred of Jews has been confined to history, that naive fiction was shattered on October 7 and swept away by the hate that has poured across college campuses and city streets throughout America and the West over the past month.

In just the first week after Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad murdered 1,200 Israelis, harassment, vandalism, and assault against American Jews rose nearly 400 percent.

But the peaceful people gathering in Washington today aren't here to ask for pity for themselves. They are here on behalf of the more than 240 hostages, including a 3-year-old American boy and at least 8 other Americans who cannot speak for themselves. They are here with a clear message for our leaders: Stand with Israel.

Since October 7, I have spoken repeatedly about the challenges Israel faces as it works to protect its people, bring the hostages home, and destroy Hamas's capability to wage war. I have talked about the terrorists' reprehensible record of systematically violating the customary laws of war; their expropriation of humanitarian aid; the cold-blooded practice of putting command centers and weapons caches in hospitals, schools, and even mosques; their grotesque penchant for using innocent Gazans as human shields; and, of course, the threat of further violence from the Iran-backed terrorists on the second front.

This is why I have urged the Biden administration to give Israel the time, space, and support it needs to bring these savages to justice.

How quickly some in the West have become confused about the crystal-

clear distinction between terrorism and self-defense. It is not the same thing.

Hamas sought the conflict. Hamas perpetuates it by holding hostages and continuing its terrorism. And those of us who live out of range of terrorist rockets should pause before second-guessing Israel's response.

This is the time that demands moral clarity on campuses, in newsrooms, in Congress, and at the sharp end of American military strength. It is also time to restore credible deterrence against Iran, the chief underwriter and architect of violence against Israel and against American forces in the Middle East.

In less than 1 month, Iran-backed terrorists have targeted U.S. service-members in Iraq and Syria 52 times. From the abandonment of Afghanistan to the delisting of the Houthis, to our failure to respond to proxy attacks on our friends in the region, the Biden administration has made Iran's job actually easier.

And now, as America dithers over support for their friends in Ukraine, Tehran has thrown itself firmly behind Putin's Russia. It will take more than demolishing a couple of warehouses to show our adversaries we are credible. Iran and its terrorist networks must know that violence against America or our allies will be met swiftly and overwhelmingly with lethal force.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENERGY

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, recent events—notably, Putin's war of aggression in Ukraine and Hamas's deadly October 7 attack on Israel—have thrown the importance of national security into sharp relief. At its most basic level, of course, national security means having a strong military, a fighting force that can meet and defeat any threat it is called upon to face. But there are other key components of national security as well. There is border security, there is economic security, and there is energy security.

Now, what do I mean by energy security? I mean a strong and stable energy supply that does not depend upon imports from hostile countries or unstable regions of the world. You only have to look at the soaring costs and supply challenges countries like Germany have faced in the wake of Russia's attack on Ukraine to realize that relying on energy from other countries, particularly hostile countries, can leave a country in a deeply vulnerable position.