

of Americans who one day dream of owning a home—their own piece of the rock—a default would add \$130,000 to the lifetime cost of a new home. Imagine spending years putting a little bit of your paycheck aside every month in order to buy a house, only to find out that suddenly that dream is entirely out of reach because radical politicians in Washington bumbled their way into a financial catastrophe. That is precisely the danger we approach, thanks to the House GOP's reckless approach to the debt ceiling.

None of this need be inevitable or even likely if only House Republicans would quit their radical posturing and work with Democrats in a serious way to raise the debt ceiling together, and we should do it soon, not months from now when America finds itself staring straight into the abyss of a financial catastrophe.

I would remind my Republican colleagues they did it before, when Trump was President, three times, with no Democratic obstruction or hostage-taking, and we did it once together when Biden was President. Much of this debt comes from spending when Trump was President, voted on by a Republican House and a Republican Senate. So it is a bit of hypocrisy now to say that they can't do it again and are holding it hostage and are playing a dangerous form of brinkmanship. It shouldn't matter who is President. These are still bills we already incurred that must be paid for the good of all Americans.

NATIONAL SALES TAX

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the Republican national sales tax, the House Republicans keep churning this stuff out. It is unbelievable. In the 118th Congress, it is already a tale of two parties: Democrats united on one side, Republicans in chaos on the other.

While Democrats are laser-focused on making life better for everyday families, Republicans are making it clear they want to help the very, very wealthy—the ultrarich. While Democrats want to embrace collaboration and bipartisanship wherever possible, Republicans seem to be trapped by MAGA extremism. That is the contrast in a nutshell: Democratic unity versus Republican chaos, Democratic unity versus Republican chaos.

Yesterday, I joined with President Biden, the Vice President, Leader JEFFRIES, and Democratic colleagues from both Chambers to talk about how we Democrats can maintain our unity and turn it into action in order to help the American people.

Later today, I will join with Leader JEFFRIES to further highlight the contrast between Democrats' "people first" agenda and Republicans' radical plans—radical plans—for a national sales tax.

Multiple extreme-right Republicans say that Speaker MCCARTHY has prom-

ised them a vote on their national sales tax bill, which they guilefully refer to as the "FairTax Act." Nothing could be less fair to the American people. In a universe of bad ideas, a Republican national sales tax reigns supreme. This proposal, pushed by the MAGA fringe, who now controls the House Republican conference, would impose a 30-percent tax on every single purchase Americans make just as inflation is beginning to drop. This so-called FairTax is truly foul legislation for American families.

For young families who want to buy a home, well, the Republican tax plan would add nearly \$125,000 extra on top of the price you pay for your house—an impossible sum for many young people struggling to get their start in life.

And what about Americans out there thinking of buying a car? Under the Republican tax plan, the average American would pay \$10,000 more on that single purchase alone.

What about seniors getting ready for retirement? A Republican national sales tax means people's life savings would suddenly lose 30 percent of their value. Imagine working your entire life, playing by the rules, paying your taxes, saving a little of each paycheck only to have Republicans swoop in and erase nearly a third—a third—of what you have saved up.

And it doesn't end there.

Under the Republican tax plan, a mere trip to the grocery store would be torture. Eggs are high enough right now at \$4.25 a dozen. They would be \$5.50 under the Republican plan. Milk, right now, is \$4.40. It would cost \$5.70 under the Republican plan. The same holds true for everything else: bread, produce, canned goods, cleaning supplies, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, diapers—you name it. All of it would go up by a third for millions of families—millions, tens of millions, probably hundreds of millions. It would be a devastating blow.

But do you know who wouldn't mind a Republican national sales tax? The ultrarich, the ultrawealthy. The top 1 percent of our earners wouldn't notice much change in expenses. That is who would win under the Republicans' proposal—the very, very rich—because their taxes would be greatly reduced even further, even worse than under the Trump tax cuts. No wonder, then, that even Grover Norquist—no friend of the Democrats—calls this bill a "terrible idea" and an "assault on your retirement savings."

Look, if Republicans want to start their majority with a debate on their national sales tax bill, Democrats would welcome it. Let the American people see which party is fighting for everyday folks and which party is trying to rig the game in favor of the ultrarich. It is a debate the American people need to see.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

118TH CONGRESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the new Congress is a chance for a fresh start, and we need a fresh start. We cannot afford a repeat of the past 2 years.

Despite the fact that Democrats controlled Congress by the slimmest of margins in the last Congress, Democrats acted as if they had a mandate for radical, far-left change.

Democrats shoved through multiple partisan spending sprees, including the so-called American Rescue Plan Act which kicked off our current inflation crisis. And what they got through was mild compared to what they wanted to push through—from a Federal takeover of elections to some of the most extreme abortion legislation in the world. Fortunately, some of the Democrats' most radical proposals didn't ultimately make it through Congress, but not for a lack of trying on Democrats' part.

Despite the fact that they had nothing more than a technical majority, Democrats did their best to eliminate a voice for the minority party in the Senate by attacking the Senate filibuster rule. Some contemplated packing the Supreme Court to secure judicial support for Democrat policy priorities. And Democrats' rhetoric was often as extreme and divisive as their policies, with the standout example being an address the President gave a year ago this month in which he suggested that half the country was racist.

Mr. President, we have had another election, and the American people rejected one-party rule by electing a Republican House of Representatives. They have created a situation in which both parties will have to work together to get anything done.

I hope this will mark a new less partisan moment here in Congress. I hope we can move on from the past 2 years and start afresh to work together to address the challenges facing our country, because there is a lot that we can do together.

Despite the partisanship of the Democrat agenda over the last 2 years, there were still moments that reminded us that there are many areas where we can agree or are close enough to work together.

I introduced a number of bipartisan bills in the last Congress, and I am looking forward to working with colleagues of both parties on a number of issues in the new Congress.

One major piece of legislation we take up every few years is the farm bill, which has a strong bipartisan history. During my time in the Senate, I have introduced farm bill legislation with both Democratic and Republican

colleagues, and I think that working together, we can produce a bill this year that will meet the needs of our Nation's farmers and ranchers and strengthen U.S. agriculture production.

Another obvious area for bipartisan cooperation is the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization that is coming due this year, and none too soon, as recent air travel fiascos have made clear. Our last FAA reauthorization bill was a strongly bipartisan piece of legislation, and this year's bill should be the same.

Another area where I think there is a lot of room for bipartisan cooperation is promoting transparency and accountability in Big Tech.

President Biden recently published an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal calling for, among other things, section 230 reform. I already have bipartisan legislation with Senator SCHATZ to reform section 230 and increase transparency and due process for users around content moderation actions taken by Big Tech platforms, and I will work to advance that legislation in this Congress.

I also think there is a lot we can do on a bipartisan basis to advance trade agreements to expand markets for American products and services around the world. The Biden administration has been slow to take action on trade, and I think there is a real interest from Members of Congress of both parties to accelerate our trade efforts and create new market access opportunities for American workers and producers.

I would also like to think we can agree on the need to conduct serious oversight of government spending to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being used efficiently and effectively. Democrats forced through trillions of dollars in new spending during the last Congress, and conducting oversight of how that money is being spent is nothing less than our responsibility as Members of Congress. I am thinking in particular of the massive funding infusion—\$80 billion the Democrats handed to the IRS. Especially given the IRS' shaky record when it comes to handling taxpayer data, I would hope we can agree that rigorous oversight of the IRS is required.

I also hope that my Democrat colleagues will be open to working to extend tax relief for American businesses and American families. Americans and small businesses are going to face serious tax hikes if the tax relief from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act isn't extended or made permanent. I would like to think that Members of both parties could work together to extend this tax relief and the benefits it provides for Americans.

Another thing that I am hoping will happen in this Congress is a return to regular order when it comes to appropriations bills and other legislation. Omnibus appropriations bills are not an ideal way to fund the government,

to put it mildly. They are an invitation for waste and all the other problems that come with hastily thrown-together legislation, and we need to do everything we can to make sure individual appropriations bills go through the committee process and are individually debated on the floor.

I am very encouraged that the incoming Democrat chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee has joined Senator COLLINS, who will be the top-ranking Republican on the committee, to announce her desire to pass appropriations bills through regular order. I really hope that that will be a bipartisan priority this year.

For similar reasons, we need to put a greater emphasis on making sure non-appropriations bills—especially the biggest bills that we consider—go through regular order in committee, where they could be publicly debated and amended and receive input from all committee members.

I hope that we can move forward a more collaborative and transparent process, which is the kind of process that best serves the American people.

Getting anything done in divided government requires a genuine attitude of compromise, with both sides conceding things, rather than the "my way or the highway" approach that we have seen from Democrats over the past 2 years. But if we can get there, then I think we can achieve a lot together in this new Congress.

I am eager to work with my colleagues from both parties to address the challenges facing our country. And for the good of the American people, I hope we will build a record of bipartisan accomplishment over the next 2 years.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL EDELMAN

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the honor of recognizing a true Montana hero, Dr. Daniel Edelman. Dr. Edelman is a veteran of the U.S. Army who was seriously injured on a mission while deployed overseas as the non-commissioned officer in charge of security and intelligence of the 1st Military Intelligence Battalion, 1st Infantry Division.

Despite his severe injuries, Dr. Edelman pursued and obtained bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees, along with several professional certifications, allowing him to have a long and distinguished career serving his fellow Montanans.

While serving as chancellor at Montana State University Billings, Dr.

Edelman championed many student causes, with a particular focus on veterans, disabilities, first-generation, underserved, and Native American students. He worked with the FBI and other agencies to provide educational opportunities for victims of human trafficking and also entered into an agreement for MSUB to partner with the University of North Texas Health Science Center to identify human remains, particularly those of murdered Native Americans. Additionally, he created a veterans success center at MSUB. Dr. Edelman helped raise the final funds for a science building and student scholarships.

Outside of his work at MSUB, Dr. Edelman volunteers by serving on the board of Horses Spirits Healing, a non-profit that helps veterans with PTSD.

After a career dedicated to serving Montana and our Nation, Dr. Edelman recently retired from MSUB due to a terminal condition connected to his time in the U.S. Army. Dr. Edelman truly embodies the values and the spirit of a Montanan, and I have no doubt that his legacy of service will continue for many generations to come.

It is my honor to recognize Dr. Edelman, who is here in the Chamber today in the Gallery with his family. I want to recognize Dr. Edelman for his service to our great State, our great Nation, and for his dedication to improving the lives of his students and his fellow Montanan veterans.

Dr. Edelman, you have made Montana and our country very proud.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). The majority whip.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN PENN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the State of Illinois is my home, and it holds an important place in the history of the American labor movement. All of us learned the name Upton Sinclair in our early days in school, the author of the 1906 novel "The Jungle," which told the story of the horrendous working conditions endured by, largely, immigrant workers in Chicago's meatpacking plants and led to Federal regulation.

A. Philip Randolph, founder of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, one of America's first unions for African-American workers, was a civil rights champion and a leader of the 1963 March on Washington.

There is also the story of Mary Harris "Mother" Jones, an Irish immigrant who survived the Great Famine in Ireland, the yellow fever epidemic of 1867, which took the lives of her husband and children, and after her own dress shop was destroyed in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, she went on to become a woman labor organizer and a fierce and beloved champion of coal miners. Before she died, she said she wanted to be buried in a place of honor among coal miners. She is buried in a town near my home called Mount