

spend proposals, a far-left agenda, and a couple—or I should say—a complete failure to address some of the biggest challenges facing the country.

Let's step back in time for a minute to the beginning of the President's administration. Mr. President, 3 years ago this month, the President signed into law a massive and partisan \$1.9 trillion spending bill under the guise of COVID relief, despite the fact that Congress had just passed a fifth—fifth—bipartisan COVID bill that met, essentially, all current pressing COVID needs.

Economists, including some left-leaning economists—warned at the time that the bill ran the risk of setting off inflation. But Democrats and the President proceeded anyway. And every American knows what resulted—an inflation crisis that saw inflation reach its highest level in more than 40 years. An inflation crisis that, 3 years later, still—still—isn't over.

But if you thought 3 years of inflation had taught President Biden to be wary of excessive government spending, you would be wrong. The President's State of the Union address was bursting with ideas for new spending—and new taxes to go along with them.

Yet the President had the audacity to claim that he is “delivering real results in fiscally responsible ways.”

Well, when you have passed an unnecessary \$1.9 trillion spending bill that plunged the country into an inflation crisis from which it has not still emerged, I would think you might be cautious about asserting any claims to fiscal responsibility.

But the President isn't overly troubled by the facts in these matters. He went on to assert that he has cut the Federal deficit by more than \$1 trillion, a deceptive claim he has repeated so often that it earned him a “Bottomless Pinocchio” from the Washington Post's Fact Checker column.

As CNN put it in its State of the Union fact check, “Biden's actions have clearly added to deficits.”

Mr. President, the President's address featured lots of new spending ideas and proposals for new taxes. What it didn't feature was solutions to the challenges that are actually facing the American people.

The President didn't get around to discussing the border and inflation—two of the biggest issues on the minds of Americans—until around halfway through his speech. And even then—even then—it was not to offer solutions; it was to dodge responsibility for these crises.

Despite the fact that the crisis at our southern border is a direct result of President Biden's policies, the President spent his entire discussion of the border suggesting that it is Congress's responsibility to act.

President Biden created this border crisis, and he has the power to end it. And he could start today.

For example, the President could crack down on abuse of the asylum sys-

tem by tightening the standard for asylum claims, which could help weed out many of the specious claims that are being made that allow individuals to get years of, essentially, legal permanent residence.

But I don't think the President is really interested in securing the border. He is interested, however, in preventing the border crisis from hindering his reelection. So he is taking steps to put the blame anywhere but on himself.

As for inflation, well, the President has tried a variety of tactics for messaging on inflation, from minimizing the crisis to blaming it on others. In the State of the Union, he trotted out his latest blame-deflecting strategy, complaining about so-called shrinkflation. I hate to tell the President this, but a 10-percent shrinkage in the size of a Snickers bar is not the reason why Americans are paying \$1,000 more a month these days to maintain the same standard of living they had when the President took office. Shrinkflation is not an explanation for the inflation crisis the President helped create. It is just one more attempt by the President to shift the blame.

There are a lot of other things I could say about the President's speech. I could talk about the President once again touting his Green New Deal policies, including his plan to install 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations, even as our electric grid heads for disaster. I could talk about how disappointed I was that the President chose to resurrect the ugly moments early in his Presidency when he and his Democratic colleagues attempted to manufacture a nonexistent voter suppression crisis in order to justify legislation to give Democrats a permanent advantage in elections.

And, of course, I thought it was deeply sad that the President's definition of freedom seems to be mostly centered around abortion. The way the President made it sound in his speech, the core American freedom these days is the right to kill unborn Americans.

Well, there is a lot more to say, but I will stop here. Suffice it to say that if Americans were looking for solutions to the challenges facing our country, they did not hear them in the State of the Union.

I yield the floor.

JASMINE HYEJUNG YOON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Jasmine Hyejung Yoon to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Virginia.

Ms. Yoon received her B.A. with distinction from the University of Virginia and her J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law. After beginning her legal career in private practice with Cromwell & Moring LLP, she clerked for Judge James C.acheris of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. She then served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the East-

ern District of Virginia from 2010 to 2016, serving in both the Richmond and Alexandria Divisions. As an AUSA, she investigated and prosecuted over 80 financial crimes, including those involving public corruption, bribery, and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

After spending a few years as associate director of annual giving for the University of Virginia Law School Foundation, Ms. Yoon became the associate university counsel in the University of Virginia Office of the University Counsel. In this role, she worked with the Virginia Attorney General's Office and the university to provide legal advice to the board of visitors and university leadership on matters ranging from risk and liability management, to campus security and safety. In 2021, she took over as interim university counsel and led the team of attorneys in the office of university counsel.

Since 2022, Ms. Yoon has been the vice president for corporate integrity, ethics, and investigations at Capital One Financial Corporation, where she handles all internal investigations, ethics programs, and anti-corruption programs.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Ms. Yoon “well qualified” to serve on the Federal bench, and she has the strong support of both of her home State Senators, Mr. WARNER and Mr. KAINE. Her breadth of experience and knowledge of the Western District of Virginia make her well-positioned to serve on the bench with distinction.

I strongly support this nominee, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for her confirmation.

Mr. THUNE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

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

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

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that—and I don't think my remarks will go over 5 minutes, but if they extend beyond a minute or 2, that I be able to finish my remarks before we go to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

NOMINATION OF JASMINE HYEJUNG YOON

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Ms. Jasmine Yoon, whom President Biden has nominated to serve as a U.S. district court judge for the Western District of Virginia.

For the last decade and a half, Jasmine has served as an invaluable asset to Virginia's legal community, offering both a unique zeal for public service and an incredible life story.

Jasmine came to this Nation at age 14 from South Korea, speaking virtually no English. All through eighth

grade—and I am trying to think of myself in the eighth grade, and I cannot imagine going through this—but all through eighth grade, literally, at home she read Merriam Webster's dictionary and watched American TV. And by the time she entered high school, she spoke English fluently.

Thanks to this hard work, she developed a stellar academic record, such that she became a two-time graduate at the University of Virginia where she was awarded the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation scholarship, a full 3-year scholarship to the UVA School of Law given for academic and extracurricular achievement.

Shortly before law school, Jasmine became a U.S. citizen. She has spoken movingly to me and to Senator KAINE about her memories of that ceremony and what citizenship means to her.

Following law school, Jasmine began her public service career clerking for The Honorable James C. Cacheris in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, a distinguished jurist and lifelong mentor for Jasmine.

After completing her clerkship, Jasmine went to work as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District. During her time in that office, she prosecuted countless complex cases. Her work was so notable that she won the FBI Director's Award, given for outstanding prosecutorial skills and service to the FBI.

Upon the conclusion of her time as a prosecutor, she went back to UVA, this time as a lawyer in the university's counsel's office. In taking this job, she and her husband chose to move their entire family to the Western District of Virginia, where they put down deep roots. As counsel to the university, Jasmine impressed everyone she met with her calm and measured approach to nuanced and subtle issues.

Jasmine's community-oriented mindset, her career qualifications, and numerous accolades and awards make her an exceptional nominee for the Western District of Virginia.

Her nomination has received countless letters of support, including from university leadership, local leaders, and the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Virginia. Jasmine was also voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee with a strong bipartisan vote.

Once sworn in, Jasmine will be the first Asian-American Federal judge in Virginia. I know she will serve with distinction and make our country and our Commonwealth proud.

I urge my colleagues to support her nomination.

With that, I yield the floor.

VOTE ON YOON NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Yoon nomination?

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY).

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 86 Ex.]

YEAS—55

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rounds
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Butler	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Lujan	Stabenow
Carper	Manchin	Tester
Casey	Markley	Tillis
Collins	McConnell	Van Hollen
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Murkowski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Welch
Fetterman	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Graham	Padilla	
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—41

Barrasso	Ernst	Ricketts
Blackburn	Fischer	Risch
Boozman	Grassley	Romney
Braun	Hagerty	Rubio
Britt	Hawley	Schmitt
Budd	Hoeben	Scott (FL)
Capito	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tuberville
Cramer	Marshall	Vance
Crapo	Moran	Wicker
Cruz	Mullin	Young
Daines	Paul	

NOT VOTING—4

Hyde-Smith  
Kennedy

Shaheen  
Sinema

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 541, Sunil R. Harjani, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Tina Smith, Elizabeth Warren, Raphael G. Warnock, Gary C. Peters, Tim Kaine, Richard Blumenthal, Jack Reed, Sheldon Whitehouse, Peter Welch, Mark R. Warner, Christopher A. Coons, Tammy

Duckworth, Benjamin L. Cardin, Debbie Stabenow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Sunil R. Harjani, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 87 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Sanders
Brown	Kaine	Schatz
Butler	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Lujan	Tester
Casey	Manchin	Van Hollen
Collins	Markley	Warner
Coons	Menendez	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warren
Duckworth	Murkowski	Welch
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Ossoff	
Graham	Padilla	

NAYS—44

Barrasso	Fischer	Risch
Blackburn	Grassley	Romney
Boozman	Hagerty	Rounds
Braun	Hawley	Rubio
Britt	Hoeben	Schmitt
Budd	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Capito	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Lee	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lummis	Thune
Cotton	Marshall	Tillis
Cramer	McConnell	Tuberville
Crapo	Moran	Vance
Cruz	Mullin	Wicker
Daines	Paul	Young
Ernst	Ricketts	

NOT VOTING—4

Hyde-Smith  
Kennedy

Shaheen  
Sinema

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sunil R. Harjani, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

NOMINATION OF SUNIL R. HARJANI

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the confirmation of Judge