

American dream, which his own inflation eroded. Angry blame-shifting by President Biden is not going to stop the flood or reverse the flood of the 9 million illegal immigrants and illegal border crossings, nor will it protect innocent Americans from the illegal immigrant crime.

Families in my home State of Wyoming and all across America are fed up with the Biden blame game. Americans are not imagining that their grocery bills are higher than they ever were before. The bills actually are higher. Americans aren't imagining that the border is more dangerous than ever before. It is more dangerous.

And watching President Biden's speech, it is clear to the people across Wyoming and to like-minded Americans that the President doesn't listen.

Fortunately, Senate Republicans are listening. You heard it last week from the junior Senator from Alabama. Her response was remarkably positive. Unlike President Biden, she offered a bright vision for the future of our Nation. The Senator said:

Together, we can reawaken the heroic spirit of a great nation.

And she is right.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S BUDGET

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, first, I just want to say for the record that it has been 36 days since Republican colleagues voted down the strongest border security bill in decades. So that is a reality.

But what I wanted to speak about was the President's budget. When he was growing up, President Biden's dad used to say this: Don't tell me what you value. Show me your budget, and I will tell you what you value.

Well, President Biden's budget just came out, and I will tell you what he values. President Biden values investing in the middle class so that families are able to work hard and get ahead and build a better life for their children. He values ensuring that teachers and firefighters aren't paying more taxes than billionaires. And he values Social Security and Medicare, programs that have lifted up millions of older Americans out of poverty—a whole generation—a great American success story.

Meanwhile, we have the Republican nominee, the former President, in a CNBC interview vowing to cut Medicare and Social Security.

Show me your budget, and I will tell you what you value.

The Biden budget invests in growing our middle class, continuing the policies that have made our economy the strongest in the world.

Since President Biden and Vice President HARRIS took office, the economy has added about 15 million new jobs, the most ever in the first term of a President.

The unemployment rate has stayed below 4 percent for 2 years in a row. We

haven't seen that in more than 50 years.

Wages are up. The stock market is up. New small businesses are up.

Meanwhile, the Republican agenda slashes investments in our families while cutting taxes for the wealthy.

Republicans like to talk about cutting the deficit. Meanwhile, President Biden is doing it. His budget would reduce the deficit by \$3 trillion by making the wealthy pay their fair share and cracking down on tax cheats.

The Biden budget lowers costs for families in a number of ways. It invests in affordable childcare so that working families aren't scrambling to find quality care at a price they can afford. It increases affordable housing and helps American families buy their first home and achieve their dream. Meanwhile, it makes higher education more affordable and cuts the burden of student debt, and it continues to lower prescription drug costs, helping people afford the medications they need.

And, best of all, it restores the expanded child tax credit, which was enacted as part of the American Rescue Plan. The expanded child tax credit helped cut child poverty in half in 2021. And President Biden's budget brings it back, giving families some breathing room.

We also know that families are concerned about our national security. The Biden budget invests in a secure border through technology that detects fentanyl, more Border Patrol officers, more immigration judges, and more asylum officers so decisions can be made quickly on who should be allowed to remain in the country.

And, finally, the Biden budget protects and strengthens Social Security and Medicare. These aren't just government programs. They are a promise that, after a lifetime of hard work, you will be able to retire in dignity.

Meanwhile, Republicans continue, through their Presidential nominee, to focus on cutting programs that break that promise.

Show me your budget, and I will tell you what you value. A thriving middle class, safe communities, security for our seniors, and ensuring that the wealthy pay their fair share—that is what the President values.

We have come a long way. It is time to build on our progress.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The 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. 461, Nicole G. Berner, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Mazie Hirono, Tina Smith, Gary C. Peters, Amy Klobuchar, Raphael G. Warnock, Catherine

Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch.

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 Nicole G. Berner, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 48, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 93 Ex.]

YEAS—48

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

NAYS—40

Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Braun	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeben	Risch
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Collins	Lankford	Thune
Cornyn	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Cruz	Manchin	Vance
Ernst	Marshall	Young
Fischer	McConnell	
Graham	Moran	

NOT VOTING—12

Boozman	Markey	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Mullin	Shaheen
Cramer	Romney	Sullivan
Daines	Rubio	Wicker

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). On this vote, the yeas are 48, the nays are 40.

The motion is agreed to.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that all time be considered expired and the confirmation vote be at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 465.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Edward Sunyol Kiel, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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. 465, Edward Sunyol Kiel, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Mazie K. Hirono, Tina Smith, Gary C. Peters, Amy Klobuchar, Raphael G. Warnock, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 463.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Eumi K. Lee, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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. 463, Eumi K. Lee, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie K. Hirono, Alex Padilla, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tim Kaine, Tammy Duckworth, Thomas R. Carper, Tina Smith, Jeff Merkley, Catherine Cortez Masto, Martin Heinrich, Christopher Murphy, Debbie Stabenow, Brian Schatz, Chris Van Hollen.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, March 14, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

ISRAEL

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, during his State of the Union Address last week, President Biden once again rightly pointed out that Israel has the right and I would say the duty to defend itself in the aftermath of the brutal Hamas terror attack of October 7 that left approximately 1,200 brutally murdered and 240 taken hostage. There must be no more October 7s.

President Biden also described the ongoing humanitarian disaster taking place in Gaza today. Over 31,000 Palestinians have been killed—over two-thirds of them women and children—and likely thousands more unaccounted for, buried beneath the rubble. Gaza has become a hellhole of human suffering. Humanitarian organizations that have operated worldwide for decades say they have never witnessed a more terrible situation.

Among those suffering in Gaza are not only over 2 million innocent Palestinian civilians but also over 130 hostages still held by Hamas, including Americans.

Earlier this week, I met with some of the families of Israeli hostages whose loved ones were kidnapped and are still being held captive, as well as one brave woman who was held hostage and released during the November pause.

Every day that they are separated from their loved ones, not knowing what will happen to them next, is a day of unimaginable mental anguish and torment. That is why we must prioritize the release of the hostages and end the suffering of Palestinian civilians. The only way to do that is to secure an immediate cease-fire and release all of the remaining hostages. That must happen, but until it happens, we must do everything in our power to protect innocent civilians and end the humanitarian disaster in Gaza. Today, four out of five of the hungriest people on Earth are in Gaza. Hundreds of thousands of them are on the verge of starvation, and over 23 children have crossed that grisly threshold and have died of starvation. Cindy McCain, the Director of the World Food Programme, has warned of an imminent famine. Injured children are having their limbs amputated without anesthesia. Sewage is spilling onto the streets, and humanitarian officials are seeing spikes in the spread of various preventable diseases, like diarrhea, among children.

Two weeks ago, the world got a glimpse of a horrible scene: Over 100 starving Palestinians were killed as they reached for food from trucks. In the aftermath of that horrible event, President Biden has ordered airdrops of food supplies. I support that decision because when people are starving, every parcel of food counts. But airdrops are just a drop in the ocean of need, so I was also glad to see the President order the building of a temporary port to help deliver more aid by ship. But that port will likely not be ready for at least 60 days, and even then, it will not be sufficient to meet the humanitarian need.

All of these extraordinary efforts to deliver aid by air and by sea are being undertaken when we know that during the prewar period, when there was already a near blockade of Gaza, about 500 trucks still crossed daily through the Kerem Shalom crossing into Gaza. And those 500 trucks crossed every day when the need was far less acute than it is right now.

So the obvious question is, Why? Why in the world should we have to resort to these extraordinary and more expensive means to deliver insufficient amounts of food and aid by air and sea when we could bring in sufficient amounts of food and aid by truck much more efficiently through Egypt's Rafah crossing and the multiple crossing points into Gaza from Israel?

The answer is because this is a man-made disaster.

The starvation in Gaza is not the result of food scarcity caused by drought or other natural disasters that we see in many parts of the world. This has been caused primarily because the Netanyahu government has used a series of tactics to restrict the amount of aid entering into Gaza. Anyone with eyes to see or ears to hear knows that.

Members of the Netanyahu government, like Smotrich and Ben-Gvir,