

last year in America as a result of drugs coming across the southern border.

President Biden has simply opened the border for anyone and everyone, creating a massive security gap at our doorstep.

It is absolutely critical that the United States invest in our preferred outcome in each of these situations: the border; Israel, where Hamas and Iran want to wipe Israel off the face of the Earth; Ukraine against this invasion of this sovereign country by Russia, by Vladimir Putin; and the Indo-Pacific. All are vital to our security in one way or another.

In October, President Biden asked Congress to provide funding for each of these priorities, but it is up to us to go through this request and to prioritize the funding and make sure that the tax dollars we will be spending are spent efficiently and with a purpose.

In some places, the President's request was bloated; in others, it was wholly insufficient. Large portions of the bill—especially those related to the border—would actually make the problem worse. So the Senate cannot and will not rubberstamp the President's supplemental funding request. There is no chance. Instead, we need to be in the process of working through a bill that can deliver real, actionable results.

As we know, the biggest sticking point in the negotiations on the border bill is the biggest remaining challenge. Immigration and border security are among the thorniest issues that we face here on Capitol Hill. But it is absolutely essential that we get this piece of the bill done correctly so that it makes a difference.

I appreciate our colleague Senator LANKFORD, the Senator from Oklahoma, who is leading the charge on our side of the aisle in those negotiations. The good news is, he understands these policies in and out, and I appreciate his willingness to lead throughout this process. I hope that he and our Democratic colleagues and the White House are able to reach a deal that will actually have an impact on the flow of illegal immigration across our border and finally restore a sense of lawfulness on the southern border.

I believe that legal immigration has been one of the great strengths of our country during our country's history—legal immigration; safe, orderly, lawful immigration. We naturalize about a million people a year, who become American citizens, who want what we have by virtue of the fact we were lucky enough to be born here. But illegal immigration has been an unmitigated disaster, and President Biden's outsourcing our immigration policies to the cartels has been the main reason for that unmitigated disaster.

Well, as we know, there is a lot on the line here, which is why it is important that any security supplemental be done right. We can't pass something and simply check the box and move on.

I hope we can reach an agreement on a strong security supplemental that addresses the range of security issues we are facing both abroad and here at home on our border. I know that negotiations are ongoing, but at some point, you have to vote. I hope we get a chance to see what those negotiations produce, give the Members of the House and the Senate an opportunity to debate and hopefully improve those negotiated products by virtue of the amendment process on the floor but ultimately do what nobody else in the country can do—only the 435 Members of the House and the 100 Members of the Senate. Those 535 people are the only ones in the Nation who can actually change the law by passing a bill and sending it to the President for his signature. So there is no one else who is going to fill the gap, no one else we can turn to and say: This is too hard for us. Will you please do it for us?

There is no one else to do it. That is why we were elected. That is why we serve. That is why we take an oath to uphold and defend the laws of the United States.

So it is important that we do our job. Unfortunately, we are going to be bogged down by playing catchup and handling the backlog of last year. But the world continues to spin on its axis. We have challenges that emerge on a daily basis. And this is not going to get any easier. So we need to act and to act as expeditiously as we can to do our duty, as difficult as it is.

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.

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

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

#### REMEMBERING ED SMITH

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, and also, I thank my colleague, the senior Senator from Illinois, for being here. I would like to just talk today about a dear, dear friend of ours, Ed Smith, who recently passed away. I am going to try not to say too much about what Ed and Dick's relationship was, but Ed is a stalwart for working families in Illinois.

You know, the Ed that I knew is one who was always there for working families. He was a man who embodied the word "solidarity," a man who paired passion with compassion, and who knew that no company, no community, no country would ever be as strong as it could be if any of its workers were treated without the dignity and decency that they deserved.

Born in Cairo, IL, Ed had one central gravitational force throughout his life: working hard on behalf of those who worked hard for others. He joined a union at only 13 years old and, from that moment on, stayed in the fight for labor rights for the rest of his life.

He held title after title throughout his career. He was a laborer when he was young, then a manager, and eventually a CEO. But through it all, the title that undoubtedly described him best was "champion," for no matter how busy Ed was, no matter how high he climbed, there was nothing more important to him than looking out for all of those who signed up for the tireless yet often thankless jobs that keep our Nation running, all those people who clock in day after day without complaint, all those people who deserve a good pay and steady benefits that should come with the sweat of a job well-done.

I know this firsthand. Ed never hesitated to call me to keep me up to date on any issue I should be following up on in the labor world. And I knew that I could always, always count on him to give me an honest opinion whenever I needed some advice.

Not only was he a mentor and a friend, but he held each of us fortunate enough to hold elected office accountable. He made sure that we were doing right by working families, doing right by rural Illinoisans, doing right for every worker—not just those who were in unions, but all workers—and making sure that in every inch of Illinois, folks who have earned dignified retirements after decades-long careers are able to enjoy that retirement.

One of my favorite stories about Ed is that every night before bed, he would ask himself: Who have I helped today? Now it is my turn to answer that question for him. Ed helped more people than he and I could ever meet in our lifetimes. He helped grandparents access the pensions they have earned. He helped green-on-the-job 20-somethings know and demand their worth. He set up the labor movement in Illinois to be the movement of the future, working toward that carbon-neutral future, toward that green economy. And he helped people like me remember that, in public service, we all have one true North Star, and that is to do what we can to bring about a tomorrow where every worker, every American, is treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.

Thank you, Ed, for all that you have done for the rest of us. You will be dearly missed. I hope to live my life in a way that ensures that when I get home from work at night, I can give a good answer when I follow your lead and ask myself: Who have I helped today? And I know Ed will be smiling down on me when I do so.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am honored to join my colleague, Senator DUCKWORTH, to talk about Ed Smith. It is rare that Senators come to the floor and pay tribute to someone who passes away. It doesn't happen every day. And when we have two Senators from the same State here at the same time doing it, it speaks to the quality of the person that we are talking about.

Mr. President, you have been to Chicago, but you may not have toured the whole State of Illinois. It is a different State down south. About 400 miles south of Chicago is a place called Alexander County, and the county seat is Cairo, IL.

Now, most students of geography would say: That is "Cairo." Not to people of southern Illinois; it is "Cairo" or "Cairo."

It has had quite a history. It is at the confluence of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, so it was really a hotbed of economic activity for a century. It was a large, bustling town and with a lot of river traffic that made it a very successful town.

Over time, the economy started to slump. Interstate highways took over for rivers, and Cairo was not quite where it should be.

I graduated law school here in Washington in 1969 and went to work for the Lieutenant Governor of our State, Paul Simon. Brandnew lawyer, anxious to be successful and do the right thing, I said to Lieutenant Governor Simon: What do you want me to do? He said: Go to Cairo.

Well, that was quite an assignment in those days because Cairo was in big trouble. It was in trouble because, as the economy started to slump, a lot of the racial tensions in that community started to emerge, and there were terrible instances of violence and a lot of division in the community.

Rallies and parades led to gunshots and arson and evacuation of the white population from that town. Cairo was not another Illinois city; Cairo was the South. It was said by Paul Simon himself that Southern Illinois is a land of grits and gospel music. And it is true.

It is also the land where racial tensions had reached a fevered pitch by the late 1960s. The State's attorney for Alexander County was a man named Peyton Berbling. He could have come right out of the cast of "To Kill a Mocking Bird," a rumpled white suit. And he was head of what was known as the White Hats Organization. That was a thin imitation of the Ku Klux Klan.

He had his boys "checking out the county" every day to make sure that someone who was a stranger, a foreigner, didn't linger in his county. It was a terribly racially divided community. And as I said, it led to violence and economic slump.

Fifteen years later, I was in a situation—well, it was more than 15 years later—I was in a situation where a young State Senator from Chicago was coming down to Cairo for the first time. I was bringing him down. And as we traveled in the car the 380 miles, I told him the story of Cairo and the economic problems and the racial problems it had. As an African American, he said later he didn't know what to expect when he got to Cairo.

Well, our destination was the Laborers' International Union headquarters in Cairo, IL, and the president Ed Smith.

So Barack came to that scene, a barbecue in the parking lot, and got out of the car and was shocked to see a Black and White crowd. Men and women, members of the union, friends of the union, African American and White, sitting together, eating a sandwich, and waiting for this candidate from Chicago. He walked around to a hero's welcome from so many people who were supporting his candidacy, including a lot of African-American people who were proud of Barack Obama.

Not that many years later, when Barack was running for President, he pointed to that experience and said: I began to believe the politics of hope could overcome the politics of division.

Who brought that crowd to that parking lot? Who invited us to come down to that barbecue? Who wanted to show us the success of this union? Who wanted to demonstrate the dignity of work way beyond quitting time on Friday afternoon? Ed Smith.

Ed Smith was devoted to the workers in that community in that State. It was his life, and it was his father's life before him. They were legends in the labor movement—not just in Illinois but around the Nation. So when I saw what Ed had done in Cairo and realized how much progress he had made because of the power of his own values and the power of his own being, our friendship was cemented forever.

He passed away last week. I don't have to tell you that those of us in politics meet hundreds if not thousands of people. It is rare to find someone who is consistently smiling—Ed Smith; consistently kind—Ed Smith; consistently fighting for working people—without exception, Ed Smith. Time and again, that defined his time on Earth.

Like Senator DUCKWORTH said, he really did keep a tally of what he had done for people, and it was a lot of work to do because he helped everyone in every direction. He became eventually not only successful in the Illinois labor movement but was recognized nationally.

He came out here to Washington to be the CEO of Ullico, which is the life insurance company for the laborers union. Ed decided to do something different. He noticed that a lot of predecessors had taken the deposits from the pensions of laborers around the country and invested them in Wall Street projects. Ed said: We are going to do it differently. We are going to invest in good ideas and good projects that create union jobs for my workers.

When it was all over, he had \$5 billion in his working fund, investing so that people could go to work and have quality of life.

He was a wonderful man, and I am going to miss him a lot because I counted on him so much. But I know he has created a really idealistic vision of what you can do if you have a mission in life and live faithfully to it. He did that, and he also showed over and over again that he cared about everybody. No one was too small or insignifi-

cant. For him, the labor movement was not just a movement; it was a way of life, and he proved it over and over.

So, Betty, his wife, and his great family, thanks for sharing Ed with us. He really made a difference in our lives, as Senator DUCKWORTH and I have said today, and he made a difference in Illinois in the lives of countless thousands of families.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture motions with respect to the Rodriguez and Goffman nominations be withdrawn and the Senate resume consideration of the Mehalchick nomination; further, that the cloture motions with respect to the Crews and Mehalchick nominations ripen at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader, during Wednesday's session.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Karoline Mehalchick, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

#### SEX TRAFFICKING

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, for several years, we have known about financier Jeffrey Epstein's alleged sex trafficking ring that targeted young girls. This is something that appears to have been quite a far-ranging international ring. What we know is that this was a large network of high-profile, high-dollar predators who abused untold numbers of minors.

Only one person has been prosecuted for these crimes, and that is Ghislaine Maxwell. What she did was to recruit and groom many of the victims and