

love—their sons, their daughters, their wives, their friends—are even alive today. Unimaginable.

We have to bring this to an end. And a cease-fire agreement with Hamas is the only way to get that done.

Instead of stirring the same old pot, I urge Prime Minister Netanyahu to share such a vision for the future when he speaks to the U.S. Congress today.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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 (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRUMP RALLY SHOOTING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the attempted assassination of President Trump 11 days ago at a peaceful rally in Pennsylvania shook the Nation. I am very thankful that he was not seriously harmed. I am grateful also for the law enforcement personnel who rushed in to cover the President when the shooting started. But, as every American knows by now, the events of July 13 should never have happened.

There was not just one but a number of apparent security breakdowns—notably, a failure to secure the roof before the rally. While we are grateful for the fact that President Trump was not killed, the security failures resulted in the death of one innocent American and serious injury to two others.

It is appropriate that the Secret Service Director resigned yesterday in the wake of this tragedy, but there is more work to be done. Multiple investigations are currently being conducted—several of them here in Congress—to identify everything that went wrong that Saturday and to explore ways to ensure that it never happens again.

Among other things, we obviously need to take a hard look at what needs to be done at the Secret Service. I have no doubt that there are many dedicated agents serving there, including those who heroically dived to cover President Trump when the shooting started, but the fact is that the Secret Service has been beset by problems for a number of years now, including staffing issues and a number of previous security failures. It is time to fix these problems once and for all and ensure that the Secret Service is fully prepared to fulfill its mission. We also need a new Secret Service Director committed to making reform of the Agency a priority.

Events like the ones of July 13 always horrify because they demonstrate the worst of which human beings are capable, but they also often give us a glimpse of the very best, and that was certainly true in Pennsylvania. There was Corey Comperatore, the volunteer firefighter who died protecting his fam-

ily; the emergency room physician and others who attempted to render medical assistance; the everyday Americans who stepped in to help their fellow rally-goers.

If there is one thing we can take from the events of July 13 other than the immediate practical need of addressing security failures, it is a renewed determination to live our lives in such a way that we, too, at the time of our testing, would be among those whose responses were to help and protect their fellow man.

Soon after surviving the attempt on his life, President Trump said:

In this moment, it is more important than ever that we stand United and show our True Character as Americans.

That is a call that we should all heed. That doesn't mean, of course, that our disagreements suddenly disappear, but it does mean that we recognize and remember that most Americans, regardless of where they land politically, want what is best for the country's future, and I hope that out of this tragedy can come a renewed sense of what unites us.

Amid the outpouring of shock and concern after the attempted assassination, there were those who actually made remarks lamenting that President Trump wasn't killed, and it is disturbing that our discourse and our regard for the value of human life have deteriorated to such an extent that there would actually be people wishing bodily harm on a political candidate simply because they don't like his politics. In the midst of our real and valid disagreements, I hope we can remember the people beneath the politics and emerge with a greater respect for our fellow Americans.

My thoughts and prayers continue to be with those injured on July 13 and with the families of the injured and deceased, and I pray—I pray—that the events in Butler, PA, will never be repeated.

I yield the floor.

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

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

#### JOINT MEETING OF CONGRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, BINYAMIN NETANYAHU

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this afternoon—in just, actually, a few short hours—Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu will deliver an address to a joint session of Congress.

As his country faces multiple attacks on multiple fronts—an existential threat, actually—Prime Minister Netanyahu has come to the United States to affirm the strong relationship between his country and ours and to highlight the stakes of this war.

This joint address comes at a critical time, and I am absolutely stunned and

profoundly disappointed that the Vice President of the United States has decided to boycott participating in this particular speech. As we all know, it is traditional that the Vice President, as the President of the Senate, and the Speaker sit behind the invited speaker—in this case, Prime Minister Netanyahu.

I remember several years back, when Prime Minister Netanyahu was last here, that the Vice President and the Speaker both sat in those chairs, recognizing the importance of lending that dignity and sense of gravity to the proceeding. But Vice President HARRIS can't be bothered with any of that. She is blaming her decision on a scheduling conflict even though the date of this speech was announced in early June. The only other item on the Vice President's schedule is a speech to a sorority convention in Indianapolis. The world is on fire—we have never seen a more dangerous environment since World War II—and the Vice President can't be bothered to show up at the Nation's Capitol, in the House Chamber, and demonstrate the respect and courtesy that we thought was a given—but apparently not in this case.

Not only has the Vice President chosen to skip this address, so has the Senate's President pro tempore, Senator MURRAY. We learned this morning, the majority whip, Senator DURBIN, is boycotting this address as well. I think it is absolutely disgraceful that the most senior members of the Democratic Party have chosen to give the Heisman to one of our closest allies in the Middle East—the only democracy in the Middle East that is fighting for its very existence. Why would they do something like this? Well, it is pretty obvious. It is pandering. It is pandering to the most radical elements of the Democratic base.

I am proud of the deep friendship between the United States and Israel. Our national security is tied up in the national security of Israel. We know Iran, the No. 1 state sponsor of terrorism, wants to wipe Israel off the map, like Hamas, which is a proxy for Iran, like Hezbollah, like the Houthis in Yemen, which all are determined to destroy the nation of Israel. So it has never been more important for the United States to stand shoulder to shoulder with our ally and friend against these unprovoked attacks by terrorist groups against innocent civilians.

There were 251 hostages taken on October 7—innocent civilians—in addition to all of the thousand-plus individuals who were murdered. Eight of the current hostages are American citizens, and the Vice President can't be bothered to show up? It is disgraceful.

#### ELECTION DAY

Mr. President, on another matter, election day, November 5, is only 104 days away. On November 5, the voters will head to the polls to chart a new direction for our country.

The Presidential race, of course, has garnered the most attention given the

surreal events of the last 10 days. In the last several days, the Democratic candidate has dropped out of the race, and the Republican candidate has survived an assassination attempt. You couldn't make this up. If you wrote this as a novel, people wouldn't believe it.

This Presidential race is unprecedented and with high stakes, but there is more on the line this November than just the future of the White House. From the top of the ballot to the bottom of the ballot, the American people will vote for candidates to represent their interests at every level of government—at the local level: mayors, city councilmen; to Governors; to Members of Congress, including the U.S. Senate.

As we know, election years are not known for their productivity here in the Senate. Our colleagues are always eager to spend more time at home campaigning, which does present some serious scheduling problems.

Historically, the prospects of legislating grows dimmer as election day grows closer. Even still, the outlook for the next few months looks pretty shocking and pretty dismal.

Including today, the Senate is scheduled to be in session for 18 days. Let me say that again. We have 104 days until the election, and the Senate is scheduled to be in session for only 18 days. That is about 1 day a week.

If the Senate had already completed its most basic duties, this might not be quite shocking and alarming. But the truth is, we have a mountain of critical work that needs to be completed before the end of the fiscal year.

Before the end of September, which is the end of the fiscal year, we need to pass the National Defense Authorization Act—something we have done, I think it is, 63 years in a row—which is essential to our military's readiness. As I said earlier, this is the most dangerous time we have seen since World War II. You would think the National Defense Authorization Act would be a priority, but apparently not for Leader SCHUMER. I had hoped the Senate would take up and pass this bill before the end of July, but that is clearly looking unlikely at this point.

Then we have to pass all 12 annual appropriations bills to fund everything from national defense to processing passports, to veterans' benefits, to administering Social Security, Medicare—you name it. Failure to complete that job on time could result in a government shutdown.

We also need to pass a farm bill to support our mighty agriculture industry and the dedicated farmers and ranchers and producers who depend on it. This task should have been completed last fall, but Congress punted that deadline. We can't keep our ag producers, farmers, and ranchers in limbo forever, but that is what is happening.

These are three basic functions of governing: funding the government, strengthening our national defense,

and protecting our food supply. All these deadlines were known well in advance, but the Senate has not taken up or passed even one of these bills.

We know it is not uncommon for a single bill to occupy a couple weeks of floor time, but the majority leader has given us 18 days to complete 14 bills.

If the Senate had spent its time working on other important matters, I might understand the legislative pileup like we are facing today, but that has not been the case at all.

This Chamber is barely in session, and even when we are in Washington, our time is wasted on show votes and occasional nominees. The past few session weeks have been dominated by votes on radical nominees and partisan messaging bills—not the best use of our time.

The situation has been so common that I was shocked to hear that Senator SCHUMER planned to put two real bipartisan bills on the floor this week, and I am appreciative of his willingness to do so. We need to do more of that, not less of it.

We all know that the age of social media has created serious safety risks for America's children. We have heard countless stories about the devastating impact social media has on children's mental health. More and more children and teens are dealing with bullying and harassment online. It is no surprise teen depression rates are on the rise, and parents are eager for something to change. So this is one of the bright spots of bipartisan cooperation, where Republicans and Democrats have made this issue a priority.

We have held countless hearings across multiple committees to learn about the danger kids face online as well as Big Tech's failures to keep our children safe.

Senators have authored a number of bipartisan bills to keep kids safe, and we have been clamoring for a long time for the majority leader to put those bills on the Senate floor. So I am glad that Senator SCHUMER has hit the pause button on partisan show votes for at least a week so we can take action on two critical bills to address this crisis.

The first is the Kids Online Safety Act introduced by Senators BLUMENTHAL and BLACKBURN. It provides children and parents tools and safeguards they need to keep safe online. It includes keeping harmful content about suicide, eating disorders, and substance abuse out of children's algorithms. More than two-thirds of the Senate has cosponsored this bill, and I am proud to be one of them.

We are also expected to build on the Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act introduced by Senators MARKEY and CASSIDY. This bill prohibits internet companies from collecting personal information from the youngest users and establishes better safeguards to protect children's privacy.

In short, it does what Big Tech has failed to do. It prevents Big Tech from

tracking and targeting kids with the most addictive content possible.

These are complex issues, and I want to commend my colleagues Senators BLACKBURN and CASSIDY for their work in this area. They managed to draft legislation that balances the First Amendment rights of online users with the safety of our children. These bills are on the verge of passing the Senate, and that would not be the case without their dedication and tireless efforts.

Again, I am proud to cosponsor these bills, and I am glad the Senate will finally vote on them this week. They will make critical advancements to keep kids safe from the dangers lurking online and finally provide parents across the country with a little peace of mind.

It is great the Senate is finally doing some productive work for a change, but it is embarrassing that it has taken this long to put this legislation on the floor, which only the majority leader can do. He sets the schedule.

Once it passes, we hardly have time, though, to celebrate because of the mountain of bills we need to advance before the end of September: the NDAA—the Defense Authorization Act—12 appropriations bills, the farm bill. All of those need to be dealt with by the end of September. But to state the obvious, this was entirely avoidable, this crunch time.

Again, election day is 104 days away, and in my book, it can't come soon enough.

The past 3½ years have brought us one crisis after another under the current administration, most notably at the border.

We need new leadership, and I am eager for the American people to make their voices heard at the ballot box in just a few months. Until then, we have a lot of work to do. I just hope the majority leader will give us the opportunity to do it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, two or three times lately, I have been coming to the floor to have a conversation with my colleagues on the subject of national security.

Remember, all of us, that wars are being waged right now in Gaza, Ukraine, Sudan, and I presume elsewhere on this globe. We have uncertainty and unrest looming on the horizon in the South China Sea and the Horn of Africa.

There are also serious national security concerns right here in the United States. For the last 3 years, our own southern border, hundreds of thousands of migrants from around the world have come to America without our permission, including people on the Terrorist Watchlist.

Earlier this month, we celebrated the 75th anniversary of NATO, the most successful military alliance in modern history. Winston Churchill sowed the