

Why? Presumably because he is a Democrat. On air, Donald Trump then repeated the sick idea that if you are a Jew and you happen to support Democrats, you should “have your head examined” and that you are a bunch of “fools.”

Sadly, we have been here before. But it must be said again: Donald Trump’s comments were reprehensible, dangerous, and proof that he is disturbingly at ease with anti-Semitic rhetoric.

It might be tempting to listen to what Donald Trump said on the radio and tune it out just as another Trump insult. But that would be a mistake. Calling Jews “fools” and suggesting they are bad or disloyal because of their political beliefs is not just some juvenile insult. It is an old anti-Semitic trope that goes back centuries, one of dual loyalty. It has been used for a very long time to drive Jews out of their homes, to paint them as untrustworthy, to deny their basic dignity.

So when Donald Trump goes on air and attacks Jews for the way they vote, he knows precisely what he is doing. He is sowing the seeds of division. He is propagating naked anti-Semitism.

Donald Trump will always try to drag this Nation down with insults, intolerance, fear, and smear. But we are better than that, as the American people will make very clear in the months to come.

#### TAX RELIEF FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES AND WORKERS ACT OF 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Tomorrow, Senators will have a chance to take up a bill that in one fell swoop will deliver significant tax relief for America’s families, for America’s businesses, and for Americans suffering from natural disasters. All we have to do is come together—both parties, bipartisan—and vote yes to advance the bipartisan tax package.

Democrats are ready to get this package done. It already passed the House under the leadership of a Republican chair of Ways and Means, Congressman SMITH of Missouri, with an incredible margin of 357 to 70. A majority of both parties voted strongly for this bill. Frankly, it is hard to imagine a vote more lopsided than that in this Congress.

If we get this bill done, it will go right to the President’s desk. It will become law. That means families and businesses and parents will see more money coming back to them during this tax season. More Americans will have a little more money in their pocket. Half a million kids will be lifted out of poverty by expanding the child tax credit. Sixteen million kids will also see these benefits, and most of those kids are working class, poorer kids. And now that the Senate Democrats and House Democrats and House Republicans are all onboard—Senate

Democrats, House Democrats, House Republicans all onboard—we are very close to getting this bill done.

The only ones standing in the way of enacting tax relief right now are Senate Republicans. Everyone else—even House Republicans, hardly known for their moderation—support this tax bill. Respectfully, to my Republican colleagues here in the Senate, it is never a good sign to be more obstructionist than House Republicans on any issue. But that is precisely where our Senate Republican colleagues find themselves in right now. That is where they are.

At yesterday’s Republican weekly lunch, one Senator was passing around pamphlets telling his colleagues to oppose this bill, to oppose even having a debate. They are repeating a whole bunch of false talking points about undocumented immigrants and about discouraging work. They are trying very hard to justify voting no.

But let’s be honest. There is no great mystery behind Senate Republicans opposing a tax bill many of them helped write. Senate Republicans are looking at the calendar, and they have decided they care more about the results of the election than in passing a law. They hope that, if things go their way, they can get a more conservative package sometime in the future, and they are willing to walk away from expanding programs like the child tax credit along the way.

Don’t take it from me. Listen to what my colleague, the senior Senator from Missouri, said yesterday about Republican leadership:

They’re not interested in passing anything, clearly.

“They’re not interested in passing anything, clearly”—what a shame, what a shame.

Senate Republicans love to say they care about families. Yet it seems like most of them will block a bill that expands the child tax credit, lifts half a million kids out of poverty, expands benefits to 16 million children.

Senate Republicans also say they are champions of business. Yet it seems like most of them will block a bill that rewards businesses that invest in R&D, helps pay for new equipment which will promote new jobs, new job growth, and innovation.

I certainly hope I am wrong, Madam President. I hope Republicans seize this opportunity and send a tax bill package to the President’s desk—a bipartisan tax relief bill passed by a majority of House Democrats and House Republicans.

If the American people see that the only reason this tax relief bill fails was because Senate Republicans stood in the way, they are not likely to forget it very soon.

#### NOMINATION OF MEREDITH A. VACCA

Mr. SCHUMER. On the Vacca nomination, today, the Senate will confirm another exceptional judicial nominee

from New York whom I recommended to President Biden, Meredith Vacca, to serve as district judge for the Western District of New York, the Buffalo and Rochester areas of our State.

Judge Vacca’s confirmation will be a historic moment for Western New York. A proud Korean American, Judge Vacca will be the first Asian American and first woman of color ever to serve in the Western District of New York.

I am proud to say Judge Vacca is a Western New Yorker through and through, a Buffalo Law School graduate, longtime resident of the Rochester area, raised in the suburban town of Greece.

Judge Vacca will bring great talent, experience, and respect for the law to the Western District of New York.

The Western District, as I mentioned, stretches to Buffalo and Rochester and many other counties in Western New York. These are places that have benefited immensely from New York’s great Asian-American community. As the senior Senator from New York and as majority leader, I have always worked to make New York’s Federal bench reflect better the communities it serves. And I know the Presiding Officer and I have worked hand in hand on that noble goal.

Judge Vacca’s nomination will mark another major step toward that goal. Judge Vacca has every quality you could want in a jurist: compassionate, tough, legally astute, with a genuine love for her community. She spent over 15 years as an attorney, prosecutor, and judge fighting for vulnerable New Yorkers.

She has developed a rare institutional knowledge of our State and our country’s laws and will bring tremendous legal expertise and experience to the Western District bench. And notably, once confirmed, Judge Vacca will make the all-male Western District bench 50 percent female, making it one of the few country’s 50 percent female benches. One day, I hope this is the norm across the country.

So I am proud to support Judge Vacca’s nomination, and I look forward to voting to confirm her later today.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, it has been less than 2 weeks since

President Biden's name was removed from the Democratic Party's ticket. I have already spoken about how the effort to sideline Democrats' de facto nominee robbed primary voters of their role in the electoral process.

Now, as the dust settles, more and more Americans are realizing this wasn't just a process foul, it was also a massive promotion for someone with a failing record in her current job.

Remember, just 2 months into their term, the President asked the Vice President—gave her the task of getting to the bottom of the surging illegal immigration at the United States-Mexico border. He called her “the most qualified person” to lead on this issue.

So why don't we take a look at how she did. In the past 3½ years, the crisis at our southern border has made history. Border Patrol agents have recorded over 9.9 million illegal encounters. We know that nearly 2 million more have literally gotten away, and the administration's catch-and-release policies have let in over 3 million without any credible means of enforcing immigration law.

What rapidly became a humanitarian crisis on Vice President HARRIS's watch is also a national security vulnerability of alarming proportions. Since October 2021, CBP have encountered 539 individuals on the Terror Watchlist along the southern border.

The failure is vast. The facts are shocking. The numbers are staggering. But for too many American families, there is only one number that matters: the one empty chair at the dinner table.

For some families, that chair is empty because an illegal immigrant killed their loved one. For many more, it is empty because Chinese manufacturers and Mexican cartels have exploited the chaos at the border and made fentanyl the leading cause of death for American adults.

And yet—yet—in the face of pain and suffering, the administration's point person on the border has approached this crisis with profound unseriousness. It took the Vice President months to get around to visiting the border. When asked why she hadn't made time to see the effects of the administration's open border policies firsthand, she quipped that she had not been to Europe either.

Sometimes, instead of deflection, she has employed outright denial. For example, she said:

We have a secure border.

Another example:

[E]verything . . . is going rather smoothly.

Of course, years earlier, under an administration that took border security seriously, then-Senator HARRIS found plenty of time to elaborate on her aversion to that commonsense policy.

In 2017, when a Federal judge blocked the previous administration's effort to deny Federal funding to sanctuary cities, she reacted as follows:

It's fantastic, I'm jumping up and down. Put five exclamation points after what I just said.

Democrats are poised to nominate someone with a long record of being dead wrong on securing American borders. So perhaps it is not surprising that their immediate allies are working overtime to absolve the Vice President of responsibility for the undeniable crisis that has unfolded on her watch.

Last week, we read headlines like: “No, Kamala Harris Is Not The ‘Border Czar.’”

And claims that “the Vice President's role was more limited.”

After the short hiatus of asking tough questions about President Biden's fitness for office, the legacy media are back in the business of papering over Democratic vulnerabilities, even in this case if it means blatantly gaslighting the public.

But at the end of the day, the American people know what neglect looks like. Families missing loved ones know what this sort of catastrophic failure feels like, and in November, I expect they will have plenty to say about it.

#### JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, now on another matter, the Senate is about to leave Washington for the August State work period.

When we come back, Senate Democrats will face a daunting list of judges that the Biden-Harris administration will want them to confirm.

There is Adeel Mangi and his record of bumping elbows with terrorist apologists and advocates for cop killers.

There is Kevin Ritz and Karla Campbell, both the nepotistic beneficiaries of corrupt bargains between the Biden-Harris administration and the judges they would replace.

There is Julia Lipez, another nepotism hire, who has distinguished herself in her leniency toward a parent who killed their baby with fentanyl.

There is Embry Kidd, who went soft on sex abusers and then misled the Judiciary Committee about it.

There is Ryan Park, the self-described “tip of the spear” of progressive activism, who fought hard to let colleges discriminate illegally against Asian applicants.

There is Sparkle Sooknanan, whose nomination Congressman VELÁZQUEZ called “an insult to the people of Puerto Rico.”

And then there is Mustafa Kasubhai who has advocated incorporating—listen to this—Marxist theory into property law.

So as our Democratic colleagues head out of town, I would suggest that they consider whether the radical goals of the Biden-Harris judicial project are really worth it.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Meredith A. Vacca, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

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. 710, Meredith A. Vacca, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Peter Welch, John W. Hickenlooper, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Laphonza R. Butler, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tammy Baldwin, Christopher Murphy, Chris Van Hollen, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher A. Coons, Brian Schatz, Sheldon Whitehouse.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Meredith A. Vacca, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York, 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 43, as follows: