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"I think she is trying to be pragmatic and doing what she thinks is right in order to win the election."

Well, nothing like saying the quiet part out loud. I suspect he is right, and I suspect that one of the Senate's most liberal Senators could quickly become one of the Nation's most liberal Presidents.

I think it is fair to say we have gotten a taste over the last 4 years as to what government under KAMALA HARRIS looks like, and so far it mostly looks like a historic inflation crisis, a raging border crisis, and uncertainty on the global stage.

When I say the past 4 years have looked like a historic inflation crisis and a raging border crisis, I do mean the past 4 years. Inflation started spiking within 2 months of President Biden and Vice President HARRIS taking office, thanks in large part to Democrats' American Rescue Plan's spending spree, a spending spree, I might add, for which KAMALA HARRIS cast the deciding vote. And almost 4 years later, inflation is still above the Federal Reserve's target inflation rate. Americans are now paying a staggering \$13,000 more a year just to maintain the same standard of living they enjoyed when President Biden and Vice President HARRIS took office—\$13,000.

Vice President HARRIS recently said in her speech at the Democratic National Convention that her administration would work on lowering the cost of everyday needs like groceries. Well, why hasn't she tried that already? She is not an outsider coming into office. She has been in office for the past 4 years. If there was something she thought she could do to bring down prices, why hasn't she done it already?

And Democrats' nearly 4-year inflation crisis has been matched by the Biden-Harris border crisis. Border numbers started spiking almost immediately after President Biden and Vice President HARRIS took office after they sent the message on day one that border security was at the bottom of their priority list. The ensuing crisis has raged for almost the entirety of the Biden-Harris administration until fears of losing reelection prompted President Biden to at least take some too-little-too-late action this summer.

I could go on and talk about the Biden-Harris administration's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan or the deep uncertainty on the world stage that has characterized their tenure. I could also talk about the ways that they are putting us on track for an energy crisis, but I will stop here. Suffice it to say, after the past 4 years, no one has to wonder what Democrat governance would look like, and I hope our country and American families will be spared another 4 years of it.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I watched the debate last night. It was

memorable. It was not a good evening for the former President of the United States. I have had more than one person tell me that the people who were watching laughed out loud when he started his rant about immigrants eating dogs and cats. It is an indication, I am afraid, that the former President Donald Trump, when it comes to the issue of immigration, is unhinged. You never know what he is going to say next.

But I think that Vice President KAMALA HARRIS made it clear in her explanation that it was within the grasp and power of former President Donald Trump to do something about the border crisis and the immigration crisis and that he not only failed but he designed a strategy to sabotage efforts on a bipartisan basis to do something.

Specifically, I can recall—and you can as well—that we were told that there was a bipartisan effort underway to write a border bill. Senator LANKFORD, a conservative Republican from the State of Oklahoma, joined with Senator CHRIS MURPHY of Connecticut, a Democrat, to put together, with months of effort, such a bill. We were told hands off. Step away. Let them do this. Let them put something on the floor that is meaningful and is bipartisan and has a chance of passing both the Senate and the House. We were underway, and such a piece of legislation was constructed.

But what happened at the last minute? At the last minute, Donald Trump, very publicly, stepped forward and said: I want to stop this bill from passing. I want the bipartisan bill not to pass, and you can blame it on me, he said. You can blame it on me. He stopped the bipartisan effort to pass a bill that would have been helpful to the border in reducing the number of people who have been coming across that border.

The Border Patrol Agency—men and women who risk their lives every day in service of this country on the border—endorsed this bipartisan bill. It was an indication that we finally—after 30 years of trying—may be on the right track when it comes to immigration, at least when it comes to the border crisis. And who stopped it? Donald Trump stopped the immigration reform bill—the bipartisan effort—and publicly admitted it and took credit for it. You didn't hear that last night, did you? No, but there was a lot of complaining about the immigration issue and the border.

The simple reality is this: President Trump singlehandedly, personally, threatened those who were going to vote for such a bill. If I remember, only seven Republicans finally did. I wish more had. It wasn't a bill I would have written, but I was prepared to accept it as a final effort for a bipartisan compromise.

So I would say to those who watched the debate and wanted to have raised the issue of immigration, they still need an answer as to why Donald Trump stopped the only bipartisan ef-

fort in recent memory in the U.S. Senate.

23RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, ATTACKS

Mr. President, today marks the 23rd year since one of the darkest days in our country's history, the attacks of September 11, 2001.

I can vividly recall that day. I was in this building—just a few feet away—in a room for a morning meeting. We happened to notice on the television set that was playing in the room there that there was some news about a tower—tall building—in New York being struck by an airplane. We didn't know much more about it. Then the second plane went into an adjoining tower, and we knew that something was wrong, dreadfully wrong. Then we looked out on the Mall, down the Mall from the Capitol Building, and saw black billowing smoke coming from the Pentagon. That image is seared into my mind, and that day will forever be imprinted on our Nation's collective memory.

Twenty-three years after that devastating day, we still mourn the 2,977 innocent lives lost at the World Trade Center in New York, at the Pentagon in Virginia, and in a field near Shanksville, PA. That includes 343 heroic members of the New York City Fire Department, 71 law enforcement officers who died at the World Trade Center, and 55 military personnel who died at the Pentagon.

Last weekend, the "60 Minutes" television show rebroadcast the show on the fire department heroes from the city of New York. There were personal interviews of men who were at the scene and watched their comrades—dedicated firefighters—not only risk their lives but willingly give their lives to try to rescue the victims of September 11. It is a heartbreaking episode and one every American should see if you want to know what heroism looks like. It was an extraordinary effort by all involved and many others who weren't part of that program.

We continue to reflect on how these acts of pure evil have forever altered our sense of security and safety and how we must remain faithful to the Constitution while protecting the American people.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, on a separate topic, we are 3 weeks away from our annual deadline to fund the government, one of the most essential tasks of Congress. It is hard to imagine just weeks before the Presidential election that the Republican Speaker of the House would risk a government shutdown and really guarantee an image of chaos in his service to this country.

Here in the Senate, under the leadership of Appropriations Committee Chair PATTY MURRAY of Washington and Ranking Member SUSAN COLLINS, a Republican of Maine, we passed 11 out

of the 12 spending bills out of the committee on a bipartisan basis. We are doing our jobs in the Senate. Unfortunately, recent history is repeating itself in the House under the leadership of Speaker Johnson. Instead of coming to the negotiating table with their Democratic colleagues—the only way to pass meaningful legislation in a divided Congress—or following the budget deal signed into law last year, they have been crafting partisan bills full of cuts and poison pills.

Now, rather than take the Senate's lead in prioritizing responsible funding bills that can actually become law, House Republicans are once again trying to delay long-term funding agreements at the expense of the American people. House Republicans introduced a continuing resolution to push our job to fund the government until March of next year, a 6-month delay from our annual deadline of September 30.

As if this weren't already a blow to our Nation, which relies on critical programs that depend on this funding, the Speaker is once again hitching his already misguided government funding wagon to an outrageous and partisan provision. This time, it is the so-called SAVE Act. The so-called Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, or SAVE Act, would make it more difficult for American citizens to register to vote and would inevitably lead to eligible registered voters being purged from the voter rolls.

Two things; first, it is already against the law in every State for non-citizens to vote; second, noncitizens rarely, if ever, vote. In the extremely rare scenario when a noncitizen votes—listen to this—that individual can be federally prosecuted and sentenced for up to 5 years in prison, 5 years for a noncitizen voting.

Put simply, there is no need for additional criminal penalties to deter non-citizen voting. The reality is that the SAVE Act would create problematic barriers for American citizens who are legally eligible to vote. Instead, we should be working together on bipartisan legislation to address real threats to our elections, such as AI technologies that can be used to spread disinformation to voters.

The American people are tired of partisan bickering. They want us to do our jobs on a bipartisan basis. I encourage Speaker Johnson and House Republicans to put politics aside. Like the Senate, take your duty seriously to fund the government and avoid an unnecessary and damaging shutdown.

To the Speaker, like it or not, this requires working with the other side of the aisle to find common ground. The American people expect that of us. Let's get it done.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. 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.

ECONOMY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to discuss the need to get our Nation and our economy back on track.

We learned this morning the new numbers have come out on inflation. Prices are higher today than they were the day that the Biden-Harris administration took over—by over 20 percent. I hear about it in Wyoming every weekend; I heard about it this past weekend, how high prices have become and the crushing effect that that has had on families in my State in Wyoming and all around the country. This has been going on now for over 3 years. Prices have continued to go up. And this crisis of high prices has been cumulative. The impact on families—cumulative. And it is, regrettably, causing very hard choices for families to make. It shouldn't be this way.

Here is a recent headline from CBS News. It said: "More Americans are having to choose between food and energy bills." Clearly, this is a reflection on the Biden-Harris administration.

Now, one of those folks who talked about that—the quote is from Stacey Freeman. Ms. Freeman says her energy bills each month cost her hundreds of dollars. She told CBS News: "Sometimes I have to choose," she says, "whether I'm going to pay the light bill or . . . pay all the rent or buy food or not let my son do a sport."

That is what has happened under the Biden-Harris administration—the impact of the high prices caused by the massive amounts of government spending passed without a single Republican vote that stimulated an amount of increase in prices—the highest in 40 years.

Ms. Freeman's story is, sadly, all too common. Many Americans are feeling the high cost and the high anxiety related to the high cost of goods and services in their lives. Nearly 4 out of 10—2 out of 5—Americans say they worry about their ability to pay their own bills. Since 2019, utilities cost the average American almost \$300 more each month—not \$300 a month, \$300 more each month—than what they were paying before. These are the costly and cumulative consequences of Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS's war on affordable and reliable American energy.

Mr. President, you ask people anywhere around the country, and they know this is an administration that has strongly come out against American energy. They froze Federal oil and gas leases. They discouraged new energy production. They issued regulations to ban gas-powered vehicles—the kind of vehicles most Americans drive. So it is not a surprise that high energy prices continue to bother and cause pain for American families.

Month after month, year after year, Americans watch their costs go up and, regrettably, see their savings, if they have savings, go down.

The Biden-Harris administration has offered no solutions to our Nation's cost-of-living crisis. Democrats, instead, tell the American people: Don't believe the pricetags at the grocery stores or the price at the gas pump. They want you to believe everything is OK. Americans know that isn't so.

We learned last month that the Bureau of Labor Statistics, which is supposed to keep accurate unemployment data—well, they reported faulty numbers. A million jobs touted by the Biden-Harris administration do not actually exist. They never existed. They never were created. Yet the Biden-Harris administration claimed credit for jobs that do not exist.

Meanwhile, we have had 2 straight months where job growth was lower than expected.

America, today, has fewer manufacturing jobs than we did last year. In Michigan, autoworkers are getting laid off. Last month, the carmaker Stellantis announced plans to lay off more than 2,000 American workers from its plants in Detroit. This is the same carmaker that received hundreds of millions of dollars in subsidies—a tidal wave of electric vehicle grants—from the Biden-Harris administration, and they are laying off people. Take the money from the government—from the Biden administration, from the Harris administration—and lay off workers.

It is no surprise that last night in the debate, KAMALA HARRIS couldn't even answer the first question when they asked: Are you better off now than you were 4 years ago—are the American people better off now than they were 4 years ago? She could not defend herself, could not say yes, because people are not better off now than they were 4 years ago.

These recent layoffs—they come as they switch their assembly lines from gas-powered vehicles to electric vehicles. Thousands of American workers will soon be put in the unemployment line as a result of what HARRIS and Biden and the Democrats are continuing to promote.

Democrat regulations, Democrat rhetoric—a rhetoric of impending climate doom—are crushing American jobs. It is no wonder that Biden and HARRIS are now running from their record, and it is a record of ruin for the economy. Their flip-flops, walk-backs, the coverups—all too apparent.

The American people know that the policies of Vice President HARRIS have had a chilling impact on our American economy. When then-Senator HARRIS was rated the most liberal Member of the U.S. Senate, Americans listened. When Vice President HARRIS said recently that her values had not changed, people listened again. Americans are struggling, and Biden-Harris policies and the Democrat policies are to blame.

Remember how we got here: Democrats passed trillions of dollars in reckless, radical, runaway spending. It was