

She has worked with folks all across the political spectrum. And when talks broke down, as they often do in these negotiations, she had an incredible ability to keep reaching out and engaging with everyone and anyone. I will deeply miss her ability to reach across the aisle and get things done for Arizonans.

TRIBUTE TO JOE MANCHIN III

Mr. President, now, while we are on the topic of reaching across the aisle, I would be remiss if I didn't speak on the incredible career of my great friend JOE MANCHIN and maybe the only person I can say that I had a direct role in personally bringing to the Senate.

JOE and Gayle and Lisa and I have been friends since we were Governors together. And I remember how when Senator Byrd had passed, to fill the vacancy and he thought about running, I encouraged him, like, come on up, JOE; we can get things done. And I knew, because of his incredible position of putting points on the board for West Virginians and his ability to stick to his guns, that he would get things done.

And much like MITT, JOE is also a tireless defender of what he believes in. Folks like to speculate how he would vote or what he would do. But I never thought it was all that hard to figure out what JOE MANCHIN was going to vote for or where he was going to come down. All you had to do was listen to what he said. And if he thought it was in the best interest of the folks in West Virginia, he would be for it, no matter how much grief he took. It was always as simple as that.

You know, it was a bit of a common refrain in this town for a while, the joke was JOE was one of the most powerful people in America. You know, it worked as a joke because it actually had a lot of truth to it. Bill after bill, JOE got a lot done on the infrastructure law and all these bipartisan deals. I remember his relentless fight for making sure that America would stand up and keep the promise made by Harry Truman to our miners in terms of their pensions. I was very proud of being one of his wingmen on that.

But what he is going to be, I think, at the end of the day, remembered for—and boy, did he get a lot of grief on this as well—was passing one of the most seismic energy laws in our country's history. Getting that bill done is not only about our energy in our country, but he literally helped move the rest of the world toward a cleaner, carbon-free environment.

Yes, he believes that there is going to be a transition. Yes, he believes you can't get rid of some of our existing sources. But without the IRA, the fundamental movement that is already going to generate a trillion dollars of activity wouldn't have happened, the Inflation Reduction Act. And, boy, he paid a price for this, in making sure that America becomes energy independent and moves to be more carbon-free and at the same time also finally put in place an ability to start negoti-

ating drug prices. That law would not be law without JOE MANCHIN.

I believe it is a transformative, once-in-a-century piece of legislation. It is saving money for seniors in West Virginia and for seniors across the country, and it all was due to JOE MANCHIN. I could go bill after bill. And Lord knows, there have been times I have disagreed with him.

And I hope, JOE MANCHIN, after all this, you will realize that, coming here to this Senate, you did make things happen; you got things done. And our country and West Virginia are better for it.

TRIBUTE TO SHERROD BROWN

Mr. President, I made a comment on this, this morning. It has been a tremendous privilege to serve on the Banking Committee with my friend SHERROD BROWN from Ohio. In SHERROD's long career in the Senate, he remained unchanged. He fought for the dignity of workers. He fought against special interests that hurt Americans. He fought always for Ohio.

Deeply smart and principled, SHERROD built an incredible record standing up for working families and leading the Banking Committee with strength and a vision for revitalizing the middle class.

I particularly remember working with him back in 2016–2017 on a bitter fight to extend healthcare and pensions for thousands of miners—again, it is something I have talked about, we worked together with JOE MANCHIN—who were at risk of losing coverage. We had to threaten to block all bills being passed by unanimous consent to get it done. But we eventually secured a temporary fix and then a long-term one to protect the pensions and health insurance for American miners. Tens of thousands of miners secured lifetime coverage because of that bill.

I was always glad to fight alongside SHERROD on our shared priorities. But in addition to standing up for miners, there are other things we had in common. SHERROD's incredible wife Connie is a phenomenal writer and speaker, whom he brought down to be honored at one of our women's conferences down in Norfolk. I had the unenviable task of following her on the speaking lineup.

And let me tell you—and SHERROD probably knows—she is an impossible act to follow. She had a room of literally hundreds and hundreds of women of all races, ages, and background on their feet, literally hooting and hollering. And SHERROD, ever the supporter of Connie, was there to cheer her on. But then inspired by her performance, he brought that idea back to Ohio. And, I know, over the last 8 or 9 years, he has had his own women's conference.

With events like that and a long record of legislative accomplishments, both in the Senate and the House, a whole lot of working folks, SHERROD's legacy of work for the middle class and Ohioans and Americans will be a real tribute to him.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.

Which brings me to SHERROD's neighbor, somebody who has worked on so many bipartisan deals as well, and that is BOB CASEY.

Mr. President, as the true embodiment and spirit of Pennsylvania, BOB CASEY arrived every day in the Senate ready to fight for teachers, kids, workers, seniors. He led the charge in the Senate to cut junk fees and fought the greediness that emptied the pockets of Americans.

As chairman of the Intelligence Committee, I have grown to know and see his steadfast work at protecting America's national security firsthand. BOB approached every hearing with a thoughtful and engaged perspective—never partisan or dominating or destructive. BOB CASEY asked decisive questions, advanced important priorities, and took on the work of seriousness and dedication. Our committee was stronger for that.

And, more than anything, BOB CASEY will be remembered for being a fundamentally decent guy. He approached every problem and every interaction every day with kindness and respect for every person he encountered, not just other Senators but staffers, support personnel. And you don't see that from a whole lot of us.

We will miss BOB greatly in the Senate, and I will miss him particularly on the Intelligence Committee. My only regret is we never got a chance to play basketball.

So for those Senators and some others, I know my time is expiring. I will come back and speak about other friends like BEN CARDIN and others who are leaving. The body will be lesser for that, but I am hopeful. This is a place where, after the elections, you can't bear grudges. You have got to go back and work with your new colleagues. I hope to develop the same kind of relationships as I have had with these Senators on both sides of the aisle. I respect them all. I will miss them, but those of us who remain need to continue and fight on.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Hawaii.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes, followed by Senator THUNE for up to 15 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

DISASTER RELIEF FUNDING

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I am going to be brief because you don't want to stand in the way of the majority leader-elect.

I come to the floor today because at 3 o'clock this afternoon in the house chamber in Raleigh, there is a veto-override. There was a veto by Governor Cooper for a disaster relief bill that the people of Western North Carolina need.

Now, I understand there are provisions in there that have to do with a legitimate disagreement about the scope and the role of the executive branch, but this is not the time for us to rethink whether or not we should be sending every signal we can to the people of North Carolina that help is on the way.

I am doing my part here in this Chamber to make sure that our Members stay focused on providing \$100 billion in relief before we get out of this Congress. I need my colleagues in Raleigh to vote to override that veto today so that we can be sure that North Carolina knows that every Republican and every Democrat—we are not Republicans or Democrats; we are North Carolinians trying to provide desperate help to a land mass the size of Massachusetts that has experienced more than 100 deaths, thousands of businesses impacted, thousands of people out of their homes.

So I just come to the floor today to encourage any member who may have one reason or another to not sustain this veto-override in the house chamber in Raleigh to set that aside today and go do right by the people of Western North Carolina.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican whip.

ECONOMY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, yesterday, President Biden delivered a speech on the economy—a last attempt to rescue his dismal economic record. Incredibly, during the course of the speech, he repeated a phrase that he has often used about growing the economy from the bottom up and the middle out. I am not sure how that phrase continues to get past White House fact checkers because if there is one thing that President Biden has failed to do, it is to build an economy from the bottom up and the middle out.

Thanks to President Biden's signature economic legacy—an inflation crisis of historic proportions—today, a typical family has to pay an additional \$13,375 per year to maintain the same standard of living it enjoyed when the President took office—\$13,375 per year, more than \$1,000 per month. And who do you think that affects the most? Not billionaire Democrat donors or Hollywood stars. No. It affects the bottom and the middle the most—the people who don't have a spare \$13,000 lying around and who have had to cut back on extras or, in many cases, essentials to survive in the Biden economy.

CBS News exit polling in November found that two-thirds of voters described the economy as bad, and 45 percent said their financial situations were worse than they were 4 years ago. And it is no wonder. President Biden likes to talk about giving families

breathing room, but his economy took away breathing room for a whole lot of Americans. Working Americans paying 22 percent more for groceries and 31 percent more for gas and 28 percent more for electricity and 23 percent more in rent than they were when President Biden took office are not seeing a lot of breathing room for their budgets.

The President likes to pretend, as he did in his speech yesterday, that he came in and saved the economy after COVID, but the truth is, the economy was already well on its way to a healthy recovery, and his massive, ill-advised, supposed COVID relief legislation helped kick off an inflation crisis whose reverberations are still being felt today in family budgets around the country. President Biden can give all the speeches he wants touting his economic record, but his economy has been the very opposite of a boon to lower and middle-income families.

The good news is that the days of President Biden's disastrous economic policies are numbered. In January, President Trump will take office, and Republicans will have control of the House and the Senate. Expanding economic opportunity and increasing growth and Americans' wages will be a top priority. That means taking action via reconciliation to preserve the tax relief that Republicans delivered during the first Trump administration—tax relief that improved take-home pay for millions of hard-working Americans. It also means targeting onerous regulations choking our economy, like the thousand-plus Biden-Harris regulations that have already cost Americans well over \$1.5 trillion. It means things like unleashing American energy and restoring American energy dominance, which will benefit both the economy and our national security.

President Biden's energy policies have jeopardized the future of our already shaky electric grid and set us up for future supply problems, but his war on American energy ends next month, and a better future is in sight. It won't take long now.

I yield the floor.

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 bill 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. 783, Lauren McGarity McFerran, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2029. (Reappointment)

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Mark R. Warner, Jeanne Shaheen, Martin Heinrich, Jon Tester, Christopher A. Coons, Richard J. Durbin, Jack Reed, Debbie Stabenow, Amy Klobuchar, Maria Cantwell, Gary C. Peters, Ben-

jamin L. Cardin, Ron Wyden, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sherrod Brown, 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 Lauren McGarity McFerran, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring December 16, 2029 (Reappointment), shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 320 Ex.]

YEAS—49

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

NAYS—50

Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hoeven	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Collins	Lankford	Sinema
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Manchin	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Tuberville
Cruz	Moran	Vance
Daines	Mullin	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—1

Marshall

(Mr. SCHATZ assumed the Chair.)

(The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 50.

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

CLOTURE MOTION WITHDRAWN

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the cloture motion with respect to the Dittelberg nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.