

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 20, S. J. Res 28, a joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to "Defining Larger Participants of a Market for General-Use Digital Consumer Payment Applications".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) and the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 103 Leg.]

YEAS—50

|           |            |            |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Banks     | Fischer    | Mullin     |
| Barrasso  | Graham     | Murkowski  |
| Blackburn | Grassley   | Paul       |
| Boozman   | Hagerty    | Ricketts   |
| Britt     | Hoeven     | Risch      |
| Budd      | Husted     | Rounds     |
| Capito    | Hyde-Smith | Schmitt    |
| Cassidy   | Johnson    | Scott (FL) |
| Collins   | Kennedy    | Scott (SC) |
| Cornyn    | Lankford   | Sheehy     |
| Cotton    | Lee        | Sullivan   |
| Cramer    | Marshall   | Thune      |
| Crapo     | McConnell  | Tillis     |
| Cruz      | McCormick  | Tuberville |
| Curtis    | Moody      | Wicker     |
| Daines    | Moran      | Young      |
| Ernst     | Moreno     |            |

NAYS—47

|                 |              |            |
|-----------------|--------------|------------|
| Alsobrooks      | Heinrich     | Reed       |
| Baldwin         | Hickenlooper | Rosen      |
| Bennet          | Hirono       | Sanders    |
| Blumenthal      | Kaine        | Schatz     |
| Blunt Rochester | Kelly        | Schiff     |
| Booker          | Kim          | Schumer    |
| Cantwell        | King         | Shaheen    |
| Coons           | Klobuchar    | Smith      |
| Cortez Masto    | Lujan        | Van Hollen |
| Duckworth       | Markey       | Warner     |
| Durbin          | Merkley      | Warnock    |
| Fetterman       | Murphy       | Warren     |
| Gallego         | Murray       | Welch      |
| Gillibrand      | Ossoff       | Whitehouse |
| Hassan          | Padilla      | Wyden      |
| Hawley          | Peters       |            |

NOT VOTING—3

|         |        |         |
|---------|--------|---------|
| Justice | Lummis | Slotkin |
|---------|--------|---------|

The motion was agreed to.

DISAPPROVING THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION RELATING TO "DEFINING LARGER PARTICIPANTS OF A MARKET FOR GENERAL-USE DIGITAL CONSUMER PAYMENT APPLICATIONS"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 28) disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to "Defining Larger Participants of a Market for General-Use Digital Consumer Payment Applications".

MORNING BUSINESS

REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF THE SENATE NATO OBSERVER GROUP

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, for the 119th Congress, I ask that the Republican cochair of the Senate NATO Observer Group be Senator TILLIS, and, at his recommendation, the following Republican Senators participate in the group: Senators ROUNDS, BARRASSO, ERNST, MORAN, SCOTT of South Carolina, and CURTIS.

PROBATION ACT OF 1925

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, today, Tuesday March 4, is the 100th anniversary of the Probation Act of 1925. The act created our Nation's Federal probation system and, for the first time, authorized Federal judges to impose a sentence of probation as an alternative to incarceration. Alternatives to incarceration like probation facilitate the fair administration of justice, enhance public safety, and positively impact the lives of individuals who become involved with the Federal courts. Our Nation's probation officers and staff do deeply difficult and too-often unheralded work that plays a critical role in the functioning of our criminal justice system, and I am committed to doing what I can in the U.S. Senate to support them in what they do. I firmly believe that we owe them a debt of gratitude for their service, and I am especially grateful for the incredible work of Delaware's probation officers and staff working to make Delaware safer every day.

USAID

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, every President of the United States has a right to review and realign programs funded by Congress, but only if the President acts in a way that complies with the law.

In the past 5 weeks, President Trump, Elon Musk, and Secretary of State Rubio have done away with even the pretense that they are conducting a review of programs administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development. It is not a review, and it never was. It is the destruction of an entire Agency.

If it was, in fact, an honest review, I would support it. We should be looking for ways to maximize the results we get from spending taxpayer funds across the Federal Government.

If this was an honest review, they would not have announced the closure

of USAID and put virtually the entire domestic staff on leave. The Trump administration cut off their communication with the global workforce and required staff who were temporarily reinstated by court order to work remotely because they were locked out of the—now former—headquarters.

If this was an honest review, the Trump administration would not have recalled 95 percent of USAID's global workforce after cutting off their email access without warning and putting their security at risk, while those staff were waiting for instructions to conduct the so-called "review."

They would not have, prior to any review, forced American businesses and nongovernmental organizations to lay off thousands of workers by illegally withholding funds previously appropriated for USAID programs.

USAID supports programs that serve U.S. national interests overseas, but it is farmers here in America who grow the corn, wheat, beans, and peanuts. It is dairy farmers in Vermont who produce the powdered milk that USAID uses to feed millions of hungry children in Africa, Central America, and Asia.

It is American companies that manufacture the generators, water pumps, trucks, and computers for USAID's programs, and American workers—in blue States and red States—that implement those programs.

Thanks to Elon Musk—an unelected billionaire—those American farmers and companies have lost their business with USAID, and the workers are losing their jobs.

If the administration was serious about rooting out wasteful spending, they would not have stopped programs in countries like Somalia where USAID is a key partner in counterterrorism efforts with the U.S. military.

They would not have shut down the Famine Early Warning System, risking medicines and American-grown food aid to spoil in the supply chain.

They would not have put more than a half dozen USAID lawyers on leave, including its ethics lawyers.

They would not delay payment of invoices for work already completed on behalf of the U.S. Government, incurring needless fees for violating the Prompt Payment Act.

If this were truly about preventing waste, fraud, and abuse, if this were truly about rooting out corruption, they would not empty U.S. Embassies, leaving virtually no one trained in financial management and oversight.

If there were any truth to their hyperbolic claims of corruption, for which they have offered no credible evidence, they should have asked the USAID Inspector General to investigate, rather than fire him without cause.

And if they actually did discover programs they don't support, they could have reprogrammed the funds consistent with congressional requirements and past practice. They also could have asked Congress to change the law.

What is taking place right now is not about conducting a review, policy realignment, or addressing waste, fraud, and abuse. The administration instead has made every one of those goals impossible to achieve.

President Trump, who claims a mandate but who won by the narrowest of margins, does not have a mandate to illegally destroy Federal Agencies and the careers of thousands of dedicated Federal employees. He does not have a mandate to break the law.

But President Trump and Secretary Rubio are forging ahead, using Elon Musk to provide cover through lies and misinformation on the social media platform he bought and broke.

They highlight select examples of programs they deem wasteful which amount to a fraction of a penny of the foreign aid budget—some of which began under the first Trump administration—and they make baseless claims of fraud and insubordination, blaming anyone else but themselves for the chaos they are causing.

And while they say they favor transparency, they are doing this after taking USAID's website down with all its previously publicly available reports and data. Congress, the media, and the public are in the dark about what they are doing.

We don't know which congressional spending directives they are violating when they say they have terminated \$1 billion in programs. It could impact every single state.

We don't know how many HIV/AIDS patients have become sick because the administration cut off funding for treatment or how many children are sick with malaria or other preventable causes or how many malnourished women and children have no emergency food rations because the funding was stopped. We don't know how many thousands of girls can no longer go to school in countries where they are traditionally denied access to education because the funding was frozen. We don't know how many organizations working to stop sex trafficking, child labor, and gang violence are no longer functioning because the funding was cut off. We don't know how many deminers we have trained and equipped to locate and destroy unexploded mines and bombs in Vietnam, Laos, Lebanon, and Ukraine are no longer working because the funding was stopped.

But before long, we will know, and our constituents will know. And they will know that this administration is responsible for the chaos and life and death impacts that are reverberating in the United States and around the world.

How does cutting off infectious disease surveillance and treatment during outbreaks of Ebola, bird flu, and the deadly hemorrhagic Marburg virus disease make Americans safer? It doesn't. How does abandoning our allies and partners and ceding ground to Russia and China and to ISIS and other terrorist organizations make America

stronger? It doesn't. How does cutting off funding for joint USAID-DOD programs with Vietnam, on the 30th anniversary of the normalization of relations with that former enemy, which is now a Comprehensive Strategic Partner, advance U.S. national security? It doesn't.

Anyone can see that Moscow is celebrating these reckless actions, while Beijing plots how to fill the void to advance China's interests.

This wholesale, thoughtless, and illegal destruction of USAID is playing out across the government. DOGE has told the U.S. African Development Foundation and the Inter-American Foundation, agencies established and funded with direct appropriations by Congress, that their budgets are being slashed.

Elon Musk doesn't know and doesn't care why Congress established these Agencies, what they do, or the positive impact they are having on the lives of millions of people. To Musk and his DOGE agents, the law be damned. Congress be damned. The American people be damned. The world be damned.

The precedent being set by these illegal actions is a lasting threat to the American people, to our global leadership, our national security, our reputation around the world, and to the checks and balances that are the foundation of our democracy.

Vermonters are outraged by what is happening. Dozens have already lost their jobs. They want the United States to be a leader for good in the world. They care about the image of the United States as the world's oldest democracy. They are smart enough to know that abandoning friends and allies is how you lose friends and allies.

The destruction of USAID and these other Agencies will reverberate around the world and cause lasting damage. I urge Secretary Rubio, senior Pentagon officials who know the invaluable role that USAID plays in preventing conflict, and my Republican colleagues who in the past have supported USAID, the Inter-American Foundation, and the U.S. African Development Foundation, to stop this.

Because if the Congress, especially my friends in the majority party, allow this to happen, people will soon realize that it wasn't China or Russia that did this; we did it to ourselves.

#### TRIBUTE TO RIYA MYNENI

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Riya for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC, office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Riya is a native of Virginia. She is currently a junior at Madeira School in McLean, VA. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Riya for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

#### PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT DELIVERED TO A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS ON MARCH 4, 2025—PM 12

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States which was ordered to lie on the table:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Speaker JOHNSON, Vice President VANCE, the First Lady of the United States, members of the United States Congress, and my fellow citizens:

America is back! Six weeks ago, I stood beneath the dome of this Capitol and proclaimed the dawn of the Golden Age of America. From that moment on, it has been nothing but swift and unrelenting action to usher in the greatest and most successful era in the history of our country.

We have accomplished more in 43 days than most administrations accomplish in 4 years or 8 years—and we are just getting started.

I return to this chamber tonight to report that America's MOMENTUM is back. Our SPIRIT is back. Our pride is back. Our confidence is back. And the American Dream is surging—bigger and better than ever before. The American Dream is unstoppable, and our country is on the verge of a comeback the likes of which the world has never witnessed, and perhaps will never witness again.

The presidential election of November 5th was a mandate like has not been seen in many decades. We won all 7 swing states, giving us an Electoral College victory of 312 votes. We won the popular vote by millions, and won counties in our country 2,700 to 525—on a map it reads almost completely red for Republican.

Now, for the first time in modern history, more Americans believe that our country is headed in the right direction than the wrong direction—an astonishing record 27-point swing since Election Day alone. Likewise, small business optimism saw its single largest one-month gain ever recorded—a 41-point jump.

Over the past 6 weeks, I have signed nearly 100 Executive Orders and taken more than 400 Executive Actions to restore common sense, safety, optimism, and wealth all across our wonderful land. The People elected me to do the job, and I am doing it. In fact, it has been stated by many that the first month of our presidency is the most successful in the history of our nation.