

public doesn't like it. When we shine a light on Republican attacks on Medicaid, on Social Security, on veterans' healthcare simply to cut taxes for the rich, Americans listen, and they are aghast at what they see. That is one of the main reasons that the results in Wisconsin came in as resoundingly as they did.

TARIFFS

Mr. President, on tariffs, today, Donald Trump takes a sledgehammer to the American economy and even to the American dream. With the flick of a pen, Donald Trump is set to unleash the most reckless tsunami of tariffs Americans have seen in over half a century. Prices will rise on virtually every kind of product—produce, medicines, cars, homes, appliances, metals, paper products, beer, lumber, fertilizer, and more.

But is Donald Trump worried? Not even a little bit. In fact, he said the other day he couldn't care less if prices go up. You hear that, America? Life is about to become far more expensive, and Donald Trump, the billionaire who promised to bring down inflation on day one, says he could not care less if you have to pay more.

Maybe tariffs aren't such a bad deal if you are rich like Donald Trump and the people running this MAGA government. They are in such a bubble. To have billionaires and wealthy, wealthy people running the show, which is what has happened in this Trump administration, they are in a bubble.

They don't understand that when tariffs raise the average costs the American family pays by \$5,000, the plans to buy a new car, maybe put a new room on your house, go take a vacation, or fly to see grandma are out the window, and life becomes much tougher.

But these billionaires living in their bubble don't know, don't care, don't give a hoot. For average families, Donald Trump's trade war is a financial gut punch. The average household is going to pay, on average, \$6,000 extra a year. And why is Donald Trump so dead set on starting this ill-conceived trade war? Simply to pay for tax breaks for their billionaires.

They talk about all the money they are going to gain, and what are they using it for? Reducing taxes on the very wealthy. The money they gain out of the pockets of middle-class working families who are paying more for almost everything because of the tariffs goes to pay for tax breaks for billionaires. It is disgraceful.

Fortunately, the Senate has a chance to stop this trade war down today if Republicans join us. Later this afternoon, the Senate will vote on a resolution from Senators KAINE, KLOBUCHAR, and WARNER to undo Donald Trump's emergency declaration with respect to Canada.

I am proud to support this resolution because we should be lowering costs for American families, not sending them skyrocketing like Donald Trump is doing. I know Donald Trump is pushing

my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to vote it down, but my Republican colleagues should tune Donald Trump out. They need to stand up to the President when he is hurting American families so badly. Our Republican colleagues know deep down in their hearts, these tariffs are wrongheaded, harmful, and chaotic. I hope they do the right thing.

TRIBUTE TO CORY BOOKER

Mr. President, just a moment on Senator BOOKER. Yesterday, my good friend Senator CORY BOOKER delivered the longest address in the history of the Senate to lay the case of Republican cruelty for all the American people to see.

And as important as the length of Senator BOOKER's speech was—and it was phenomenal, the stamina, the preparation, the focus he showed by speaking for 25 hours was amazing enough—but just as amazing was what he said. He shined a light on the terrible dangers the Trump administration poses to the country we love.

I thank him for his brilliance, for his moral clarity, for his indistinguishable passion. It was a speech for the ages. It will be long-remembered, not only here in the Senate but throughout America. It was a tour de force like we rarely see here.

Senator BOOKER, I thank you. Our Senate thanks you. But most of all, the American people thank you.

SENATE RULES

Mr. President, on the move by Republicans to go nuclear, America is in crisis, we know that. We can feel it. This week, the crisis seeps even more deeply into the halls of the U.S. Senate by what the Republicans are trying to do.

Senate Republicans are so hell-bent on cutting taxes for billionaires, they are now willing to detonate the rules of the Senate, violate norms and traditions, and break their word—break their word—to get it done.

Republicans are doing something they said they would never do. They are about to go nuclear. Republicans know their so-called “current policy baseline” gimmick won't likely fly. It is hocus-pocus. Even rightwing Republican CHIP ROY called it “fairy dust.” So now they are getting ready to decide for themselves which rules of the Senate to follow and which rules to ignore.

They know that this is so fallacious, so ridiculous, and was ruled against them by the Parliamentarian when Trump was President the first time, that they decided they are going to break the rules, the norms, their word because they are so frenetic—frothing at the mouth, almost—to give tax breaks to their billionaire buddies.

It is a low day for the Senate. By ignoring the Parliamentarian, Republicans are going nuclear. They are trampling all over rules that have governed the Senate for decades in order to give massive tax cuts for their billionaire friends.

Whatever happened to those promises we heard from Republicans, including the Republican leader, that they wouldn't touch the Senate rules? Not 3 months ago, Leader THUNE stood right here on the floor in his first address as Republican leader and said “one of my priorities as leader will be to ensure the Senate stays the Senate.”

Well, that sure isn't happening right now. He has indicated in the past—he has indicated repeatedly, Senator THUNE has—that he would not topple the 60-vote threshold they are now seeking to undo. I guess when it comes to cutting taxes for billionaires, suddenly Republicans don't care much about the Senate rules at all and don't care about breaking their word, what they promised they would do when they came in.

But, frankly, this isn't just a fight about Senate procedure. This is much bigger. This is about Republicans being afraid to tell Americans the truth behind their agenda. Republicans know that if they make Donald Trump's tax cuts permanent through this current policy baseline, they will add \$37 trillion to the debt in the next 30 years—\$37 trillion—about as much as the total debt we have accumulated over the last 240-some-odd years in this Republic. Amazing. Horrible, with horrible consequences.

Our children will be saddled with soaring interest rates and a crippled economy. The ultrarich will become wealthier, and Americans who live paycheck-to-paycheck will suffer more. Republicans know their agenda is deeply unpopular with the American people.

Donald Trump knows it too. That is why he sends out all these smoke-screens every day to try to divert our attention—Greenland, Panama, Gulf of America. He knows it. They all know it. They are just too afraid to have the debate.

They won't come here on the floor and say the vast majority of their tax cuts are for the wealthiest of America. They won't dare say it. But it is true. That is who the Republican paymasters—these rich billionaires who want their taxes cut—that is what they want, and that is what they are doing.

They are afraid to admit they are taking away Medicaid from millions of Americans. I think 70 million Americans benefit from Medicaid. So instead, they go nuclear in a self-serving effort to hide the truth and use phony accounting, fake math, which will hurt us.

They are increasing the deficit by a lot no matter what paper they try to slide before us. They try to hide the cost of their billionaire tax cuts. It is not going to work. As in Wisconsin, across America, the American people will see right through it.

WORLD TRADE CENTER HEALTH PROGRAM

Mr. President, another thing that is just infuriating is what they are doing to the 9/11 families.

Donald Trump's assault on the American people takes another sinister turn

this week. It is revolting that Secretary Kennedy, Secretary of Health and Human Services, has now fired staffers at the World Trade Center Health Program, including its Administrator, Dr. John Howard, a Trump appointee who dedicated his life serving 9/11 families and who is respected by all sides of the aisle.

As of right now, Secretary Kennedy has effectively shut the World Trade Center Health Program down. This is a betrayal—a betrayal—of the 9/11 families. I am sending Secretary Kennedy a letter to immediately undo this terrible, terrible decision. This is not a “mistake.” Some of the Republicans who care about the 9/11 program are saying it is a mistake. It is on purpose.

When I met Secretary Kennedy—then he was the nominee—he made a commitment to me, an unequivocal commitment that he would protect the World Trade Center Health Program. These firings break that promise, and I am calling on Secretary Kennedy to answer for this betrayal of 9/11 families. I am sending him a letter about it, as I mentioned.

None of these cuts have anything to do with efficiency. This is rightwing extremism, pure and simple. And this hurts our brave first responders and others who risked life and limb on 9/11, who rushed to the tower. They are suffering. They are getting cancers from the gunk they breathed in when they ran to the towers to help protect us and help us.

You want to cut that off to these heroes? How un-American can that be? How vicious, how nasty, how callous. We are abandoning the people who ran to the towers.

It is not efficiency. It is cruelty; it is meanness; and, fundamentally, it is anti-American. We always defend those who have risked their lives to defend and help us. All of a sudden, that seems to be out the window when it comes to the 9/11 responders.

These are our heroes. Secretary Kennedy and Donald Trump should not betray them. Donald Trump and RFK should not pull the rug out from these families who so desperately need this healthcare.

CYBER SECURITY

Mr. President, finally, on cyber security legislation, yesterday, the Washington Post reported that the National Security Advisor Mike Waltz used his personal Gmail account for official government communications.

So it is clear the controversy about Signal was clearly not an isolated incident; it was a pattern of gross negligence. It is clear that the Trump administration can't be trusted on their own to protect America's intelligence. So later today, I will be introducing legislation with Senators KIM and SCHIFF to shore up our national security and make sure the Trump administration knows how to handle classified information.

Under any other President, these stunning breaches would have resulted

in swift accountability. It is shocking that over a week later, Donald Trump has held nobody—nobody—accountable, with no firings, no corrections, nothing—just a bunch of statements saying “lessons learned.”

The Donald Trump of 2017, I believe, would not have hesitated to hold someone accountable by now. That he has not done so now makes it seem more and more like he is just out of touch with what America needs, with America's safety, with average American families.

Well, America cannot afford any “lessons learned” when it comes to our national security. We cannot afford it. And I hope that this legislation will do some good. You will hear more about it later.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, for the last 4 years, when Joe Biden was President, the American people knew that the southern border had been thrown wide open. So many of the television stories were done at the southern border.

So what has happened now with the criminal cartels? The criminal cartels were watching closely. They knew that Joe Biden hadn't just thrown up the southern border, he had also thrown open the northern border. The criminal cartels noticed, and they took advantage.

There are unique threats to the United States at our northern border. President Trump is taking the bold, decisive, swift action that is necessary to secure that border as well. His actions are working, and he is not going to let up.

Canada is making changes. They have agreed to deploy to the border more technology—that is helpful; more law enforcement officers—that is helpful. Canada also created their first-ever national fentanyl czar. That is helping.

Democrats have said in the past that they want to see the northern border secured. They sure aren't acting like that today. Let's take a look at what some of the Democrats have said in the past.

Senator MAGGIE HASSAN of New Hampshire said in March:

Strengthening security of our northern border is vital to keeping both New Hampshire and our country safe.

Senator KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND of New York said in September that Border Patrol agents at the northern border are “struggling to address a dramatic increase” in illegal border crossings.

Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR of Minnesota, a member of the Democrat leadership, called for, in January of 2022, an “expansion of Federal anti-trafficking and anti-smuggling efforts” on the northern border.

Now, today, however, Democrats are going to bring to the floor a resolution to throw out the commonsense action that a number of them had previously

called for to secure the northern border. They want to get rid of that.

The message is clear: Democrats remain the party of open borders. They lost an election being the party of open borders and high prices. Today, they want to become once again known as the party of open borders.

The largest, longest land border in the world is the border between the United States and Canada. That northern border is twice as long as our southern border with Mexico, and so much of that northern border, as the Presiding Officer knows, is unguarded. The northern border stretches across 13 States—New York, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, New Hampshire—and then you get out west. Vast areas.

Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Kash Patel testified before Congress last week. What did he say? Well, he spoke about the threats facing our country today, and he issued a stark warning. He said:

Known and suspected terrorists are flowing in through our northern border more [now] than they are at the southern border.

These are the facts. The northern border is now a hotspot for terror suspects, for drug cartels.

In the Biden administration, we would come to the floor and talk about how many terror suspects were captured while coming across the southern border. The number is astonishing now at the northern border. The cartels got the message.

President Trump is doing what he promised to do at the southern border—secure the southern border—so they are coming up to the northern border, with 143 terror suspects already caught this year at our northern border by Border Patrol agents. Why so many? Because that is where they are coming from now. They realize they have no chance at the southern border, so now the assault is coming at the northern border. If that is how many we have captured, how many have we not? This is a threat to the safety of our communities.

The Mexican cartels also have a growing presence at the northern border. You would think the Mexican cartels—that their presence would be at the southern border, adjacent to Mexico, but I am telling you the Mexican cartels now have a greater presence at our northern border, which would be a surprise to most people.

CBS recently interviewed a drug smuggler, a smuggler who works for a major Mexican cartel. That smuggler revealed a chilling fact. He said that the cartel is moving pounds and pounds and pounds of fentanyl across our northern border each and every month.

Human traffickers are also taking advantage of our open northern border. In 2024, in just 1 sector, more than 19,000 people crossed into our country illegally. There have been more illegal crossings in one sector in 1 year than in the previous 17 years combined. We are talking about the border between the United States and Canada.