

proceed to its immediate consideration, the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Reserving the right to object. The media, for some reason, is in full meltdown mode after President Trump declared today "Liberation Day." Only my Democratic colleagues and the media, the globalist media, would find a reason to be mad about that.

I am sadly convinced that my colleagues and the woke media would rather President Trump fail than achieve a goal to help the United States of America and the taxpayers.

President Trump's views on tariffs, they aren't complicated. He believes, as I do, that America has been ripped off by unfair trade deals for decades and simply wants a level playing field. We have to change directions. What we are doing is not working.

U.S. catfish and shrimp producers have faced some of the worst blows, for example. Vietnam is dumping billions—I repeat, billions—of pounds of catfish, and India is dumping billions of pounds of shrimp every year into U.S. markets, flooding the markets and reducing the price for our quality domestic products. It is devastating.

We need to put a reciprocal tariff on these countries to protect our American producers.

I get calls every day. Whether it is cabinets, whether it is produce, whether it is fish, it makes no difference. Our people are going broke.

I recognize that tariff actions may cause reciprocal tariffs from other countries. We need to take that in stride.

In this country, we had a party for 249 years. The United States has put that party on. The party needs to continue, but all the other countries that have been built off the American taxpayers, such as the Middle East, such as Europe, such as China, they need to start bringing gifts to the party because the American taxpayer can't afford it any longer.

We are \$37 trillion in debt, and the only way to pay that down is to force other people to help us. The American taxpayer can't afford it. As a result, American jobs have been sent overseas because of all the domestic problems that we are having for labor, for things that stand out for our manufacturers.

We have to get manufacturing back in this country. The days are over. President Trump is 100 percent committed, folks—100 percent. He is going to do whatever it takes to usher in a golden age for the American economy.

By the way, just the threat of President Trump's tariffs has already led India, Vietnam, and Israel to proactively drop significantly and lower tariffs against the United States before it has really even started.

It doesn't matter if you are a Republican or a Democrat; we should all be united in wanting economic policies that put American farmers, producers, businesses, and manufacturers first.

So, Mr. President, for that reason, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I listened very carefully to my colleague from Alabama, and I don't believe my colleague used the word "fentanyl," and that is what we are concerned about in the Pacific Northwest. We are concerned that fentanyl has hit our country and our region like a wrecking ball.

So maybe when this all gets sorted out, he will support my bill to crack down on fentanyl everywhere through reforms of this de minimis issue. And I would just say, for purposes of our discussion now, I understand—and we all await the announcement, I gather, sometime late this afternoon—the Trump administration only is going to address de minimis shipments from China and nowhere else.

We have to make this comprehensive. My colleague serving as the Presiding Officer knows what it is like in the West with fentanyl hitting us so hard. If you just do it with China, Chinese companies are going to circumvent the rules and transship through other countries.

That is why I felt so strongly about a comprehensive solution to get at this fentanyl, this poison, that has hit us so hard, because if you just go to one country, what you are going to have is something called merchandise laundering. We saw it when we did an investigation in the committee.

A Chinese company ships its product through an intermediary in Vietnam or another third country. The intermediary then slaps a "Made in Vietnam" sticker on the Chinese product and falsely labels the product, and they can easily evade the Chinese product restrictions. And with millions of shipments coming in from China, there is no way for Customs and Border Protection to police Chinese products transshipped through third companies.

This is not a new gimmick. Chinese companies have been circumventing tariffs all this time with products like steel and solar panels. I have been bird-dogging this issue since I passed the Enforce and Protect Act nearly a decade ago.

My de minimis bill that I hope to get bipartisan support for would stop the flood of low-value packages from all countries on a global scale. That is the only way to deal with this problem—not create, as my colleague from Alabama would do, a gigantic game of Whack-A-Mole.

So I hope we will be back on this floor doing something comprehensive to fight the scourge of fentanyl, and I proposed it with legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

#### TARIFFS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, since taking office 72 days ago, the Trump administration has created chaos in our economy. The President, if you will remember, campaigned on lowering prices for American families. Unfortunately, his policies and actions have done the opposite.

Many families are worse off today than when he was sworn in. In February, egg prices, which has become a political standard bearer, hit a new all-time high in the United States. Just last week, a typical U.S. homeowner's monthly mortgage payment also reached an all-time high. And now Donald Trump's ill-conceived, foolish trade war with one of our top allies is the latest example of this continued pain for Americans' wallets.

On February 1, the President announced he was imposing a 10-percent tariff on energy imports from Canada as well as a 25-percent tariff on all other goods. Unsurprisingly, Canada answered and announced retaliatory tariffs. Just like that, a trade war with our second largest trading partner and closest ally is underway.

So how did the President justify such an unprecedented, counterproductive, and harmful move? He cited the International Emergency Economic Powers Act to declare an emergency at our northern border, stating that fentanyl and undocumented migration constituted a national emergency in our relationship with Canada that justified the use of tariffs.

The only problem: The justification just doesn't hold water. This International Emergency Economic Powers Act is intended for use in extraordinary cases related to foreign threats, such as placing sanctions on dictators. Trump's Executive order declared a so-called emergency at our Canadian border and tied it to Canada's failure to prevent illicit drugs from being trafficked across the border, but Canada is openly willing to address this shared challenge and has cooperated with the United States.

Let me be clear. Preventing the trafficking of fentanyl is a bipartisan priority. The fact remains that less than 1 percent of fentanyl intercepted at the U.S. border comes from Canada—less than 1 percent—and Canada made it clear long ago they are willing to work with us to reduce that amount.

The President's use of IEEPA to attempt to justify these tariffs is a shoddy excuse to ram through an unpopular agenda and bully yet another close ally of the United States.

The President is manufacturing a fake emergency as a guise to enact billions of dollars in taxes on American consumers to fund massive tax cuts for his billionaire buddies. That is unacceptable.

The consequences of this trade war will be painful and avoidable. Everyday Americans will feel it. If fully enacted,

Trump's trade war will cause price hikes on nearly all basic goods. A new mother buying formula for her baby, parents buying groceries, a young person saving up for a car—every American is going to feel it. This tariff policy of President Trump's is going to be painful for American families.

The impact on farmers, workers, consumers, and businesses across my State of Illinois, sadly, is going to be devastating. Canada is Illinois's largest export market. Illinois exports to Canada totaled \$20 billion in 2023. Illinois ranks fifth among 50 U.S. States in exports to Canada and first in imports. States across the Nation are going to feel a similar impact.

So it is no surprise that the vast majority of Americans cannot understand what the President is trying to do when it comes to our relationship with a good friend, a trusted ally, and historic partner, Canada.

President Trump recently said he "couldn't care less" if carmakers hike prices in response to tariffs—"couldn't care less." He is pushing forward with his plan that economists, experts, and even the White House itself admits is going to be painful for American families.

The last election was all about the cost of living. This is going to raise the cost of living for families across the United States, this tariff war. How does unnecessarily tanking our economy, alienating our allies, and taking money out of the wallets of Americans make us great again?

Right now, we should be focused on commonsense ways to lower prices and fight inflation. We should be taking genuine steps to slow the flow of fentanyl across our borders, which Canada has made it clear they want to cooperate with us in achieving. We should be working with and not fighting against our closest allies like Canada. These tariffs do none of that.

That is why I am supporting Senator TIM KAINE's resolution to block the President's abuse of emergency powers. I know Senate Democrats will stand up for American consumers. Can a few Republican colleagues join us or will they continue to let Donald Trump and Elon Musk enrich billionaires at the expense of hard-working American families?

#### NOMINATION OF EDWARD MARTIN

Mr. President, one of the most important appointments of the President of the United States is a U.S. attorney. All across the United States, some 90 U.S. attorneys represent the Department of Justice. They do critical work, work that is essential for the safety and security of America.

The announcement by this administration of Edward Robert Martin, Jr., to serve as U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia raises so many questions that I have come to the floor today.

Prior to his appointment as an interim U.S. attorney, Mr. Edward Robert Martin, Jr., made stunning attacks on Federal prosecutors and associated

himself with individuals who present a threat to our Nation.

Mr. Martin was the leader of the so-called "Stop the Steal" movement, which, illegally and from a ridiculous point of view, pushed that the 2020 election was not determinative of who was elected President.

Mr. Martin himself was on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol on January 6 and has repeatedly downplayed the violence perpetrated against law enforcement that day. That happens to be a crime scene which I am familiar with as a Member of the Senate because we were exposed to the crowd storming into the Capitol and storming onto the floor of the Senate Chamber.

Mr. Martin posted the following on social media:

Like Mardi Gras in DC today: love, faith and joy. Ignore #FakeNews.

That is Mr. Martin's description of what was happening in this Capitol Building as 140 law enforcement officers were being attacked.

Mr. Martin once labeled federal prosecutors in D.C.—employees of the very office he now seeks to lead—[as] "terrorists" for pursuing stiff sentences against violent January 6 rioters.

Mr. Martin said, and get this:

"Oath Keepers are all of us" in response to the Justice Department's prosecution of the leaders of the domestic violent extremist organization for seditious experience. Mr. Martin called prosecutors' treatment of insurrectionist Christopher Worrell "outrageous."

This is a man seeking a full-time position as U.S. attorney, saying that the prosecution of Christopher Worrell was outrageous.

He falsely claimed Mr. Worrell was only "in the fray a bit—not much but a bit." In fact, Mr. Worrell, a member of the Proud Boys, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for assaulting a group of police officers [here in the Capitol] with a deadly and dangerous weapon. The very day that Mr. Martin called Mr. Worrell's treatment by prosecutors "outrageous," Mr. Worrell was a fugitive from the law. He had cut off his GPS ankle monitor four days before his scheduled sentencing on August 14, 2023, and was not apprehended until six weeks later.

Mr. Martin also has extensive ties to this man. His name is Timothy Hale-Cusanelli. He was "a January 6 rioter who prosecutors described as a subscriber of 'White Supremacist and Nazi-Sympathizer ideologies that drive his enthusiasm for another civil war.'"

At Mr. Hale-Cusanelli's sentencing hearing, Judge Trevor McFadden, who was appointed by President Trump, said of Mr. Hale-Cusanelli before him, "Statements and actions like yours make [Jewish people] less safe and less confident they can participate as equal members of our society." Beyond inaccurately portraying Mr. Hale-Cusanelli as a victim of an unjust conviction, Mr. Martin has inexplicably praised Mr. Hale-Cusanelli's character and intellect, despite Mr. Hale-Cusanelli's extensive well-known personal history of antisemitism, misogyny, and racism."

According to one of his co-workers, Mr. Hale-Cusanelli once said, "Hitler should

have finished the job." Further, Mr. Hale-Cusanelli reportedly claimed that he "would kill all Jews and eat them for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and he wouldn't need to season them because the salt from their tears would make it flavorful enough."

Can you imagine this statement being made by a man who is a close friend of the President's suggestion for U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia?

One co-worker recalled Mr. Hale-Cusanelli saying that "babies born with . . . deformities or disabilities should be shot in the forehead." Another told authorities Mr. Hale-Cusanelli referred to Black people—

I can't use the words. I can't repeat them on the floor of the Senate, but they are terrible.

According to videos Mr. Hale-Cusanelli himself recorded while storming the Capitol on January 6, he berated an officer guarding the West Front of the Capitol, stating, "Fuck you! The revolution will be televised." Days after the riot, a confidential human source recorded Mr. Hale-Cusanelli saying he wished for there to be another civil war—

So he could also say—

he would give Jewish people "24 hours to leave the country."

Sickening. Outrageous, but stay tuned for what I am about to report.

In September 2024, Mr. Martin—

The nominee for U.S. attorney—

presented Mr. Hale-Cusanelli with an award at the Trump Bedminster Club in New Jersey. Mr. Martin called Mr. Hale-Cusanelli "an extraordinary man"—

An extraordinary man he is—

"an extraordinary leader." After Mr. Hale-Cusanelli concluded his remarks, he hugged Mr. Martin, who then returned to the podium to say, "It's one of the goals of many of us to make sure the world—especially America—hears more from Tim . . . because he's [so] extraordinary." This shocking conduct necessitates sworn testimony from Mr. Martin.

He needs to be brought before the Senate Judiciary Committee and answer for his relationship with this individual. How could anyone be taken seriously as a U.S. attorney with this in his background? He deserves his day under oath to explain it.

That is why Democratic members of the Senate Judiciary Committee have asked Senator GRASSLEY to hold a special hearing for Mr. Martin to explain this and any other things he has done. The list is long. The list is also very troubling.

Mr. Martin has regularly threatened to prosecute various government employees, members of Congress, and press outlets in an apparent attempt to chill their lawful speech. On February 3, 2025, [Mr. Martin] informed Elon Musk that "we will pursue any and all legal action against anyone who impedes your work." Four days later, he followed up with Mr. Musk and stated, "if people are discovered to have broken the law or even acted unethically, we will investigate them and we will chase them to the end of the Earth to hold them accountable." On February 24, Mr. Martin specifically targeted the Associated Press, writing, "As President Trump's [sic] lawyers, we are proud to fight to protect his leadership as President and we are vigilant in standing against entities like the AP that refuse to put America first."