

So the Senate has done its part. Now the Speaker must act if he cares about avoiding a recession, if he cares about American families.

I am confident that if Speaker JOHN-SON were to put the Senate's Canada resolution on the floor, the bipartisan resolution we passed, that it would pass the House as well.

#### RESOLUTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, in an additional matter, this morning, I am proud to be joining Senators WYDEN, KAINE, as well as Senators SHAHEEN, WELCH, and Senator PAUL to introduce another resolution that would put a halt on all of Donald Trump's global policies. The resolution we passed dealt with Canada. This deals with all of the global tariffs. I am very proud to co-sponsor this legislation.

The Senate has the power and authority to stop this madness, and we have a duty to act in a bipartisan way to repeal these tariffs.

As you know, the previous resolution by Senator KAINE got four Republican votes here in the Senate. Our resolution, this resolution, would terminate the emergency that Donald Trump has declared in order to slap tariffs on 49 percent of products Americans buy from other countries. It would terminate that.

Again, instead of picking a fight with the entire world, Donald Trump should be focused on going after America's actual adversaries.

The Senate has the power and authority to stop Donald Trump's tariff madness. We Senate Democrats intend on making sure the Senate gets the chance to exercise that power.

Senator WYDEN's resolution is privileged and will be able to go to the floor of the Senate.

#### BUDGET

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on the budget, we are not even 100 days into Donald Trump's second term, and his Presidency is already a dumpster fire. His tariffs were one of the largest tax hikes on American families in half a century since the Vietnam war. His bumbling trade war wiped trillions of dollars from American retirement savings.

Meanwhile, Elon Musk is crashing the Social Security website, shutting down local offices, and disconnecting phone services. All these closures and firings show his real desire is to decimate Social Security.

In March, employment for U.S. small businesses with 1 to 9 employees decreased by 98,000 jobs. Consumer confidence is at a 4-year low. Outlook for the economy is at a 12-year—low. The odds of a recession are at 60 percent. Some have argued—Larry Fink—that the recession has already started, according to the CEOs he has talked to.

What are Republicans in Congress doing about all this chaos, all this

mess, all this severe harm to American families? Here is their answer: Cut taxes for billionaires. And why are they doing that? How are they going to pay for that? By taking away Americans' healthcare, making it harder for working families to put food on the table, slashing veterans' assistance and help for rural communities, kids, and Americans with disabilities.

With the threats of a recession on the rise because of these tariffs, do House Republicans really want to sign their name on a bill that adds \$37 trillion to the deficit? They should tread carefully.

I said last Friday that for all the hand-wringing so far, the hard part for Republicans remains in front of them.

The Republican agenda suffers from a fatal flaw. Its various pieces are all unpopular on their own, but when pieced together, it is even worse. That is why the Republicans are having such trouble coming together. It is not even to deal with Democrats, the House and Senate Republicans are at loggerheads.

Members within each Republican caucus are at loggerheads. Why? Because the two policies are both unpopular. Slashing Medicaid, reducing taxes on billionaires—Americans don't like it so the Republicans are tying themselves in a knot in trying to get this done, against the will of the American people.

Republicans in Congress want to cut taxes for billionaires and pay for it by taking away Americans' healthcare, making it harder for working families to put food on the table. This is incredible.

With the threats of a recession on the rise because of these tariffs, do House Republicans really want to sign their name to this bill, as I said before?

The bottom line is, sooner or later, Republicans are going to have to face the music. There aren't enough procedural gimmicks in the world to change the reality. The Republican agenda on both sides—slashing programs like healthcare people need, tax cuts for billionaires, it is unpopular on both sides. It is not going to get any more popular moving forward, and the Republicans will have to tie themselves in lots of pretzel knots to even get a bill passed—such a highly unpopular bill passed.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on Social Security, a few days ago, Vice President JD VANCE claimed that 40 percent of people calling to get their Social Security "are committing fraud"—40 percent. First, it was Elon Musk calling Social Security a Ponzi scheme. Then Donald Trump spent 10 minutes in his congressional address talking about checks to 150-year-olds, which we all know is a lie. And now the Vice President has picked up the ax and is coming for Social Security too.

We need to be very clear: What the Vice President said was malicious

disinformation. His statement is factually incorrect. In the words of the Washington Post, it is "absurdity on its face—the kind of twisted logic that turns up at the end of a long game of telephone tag."

Well, we all know what game they are playing. Donald Trump and his inner circle are howling about fraud with the hopes of discrediting Social Security entirely. Never mind there is no rampant fraud within Social Security; they just want to cut people's benefits. Never mind that it is popular—overwhelmingly popular—with Democrats, Republicans, liberals, conservatives, rural people, suburban people, urban people.

Why are they doing this, then? Why are they going after something that has been as sacred as Social Security since Franklin Roosevelt put the program together? Why? It is simple: So they can cut taxes for the rich.

This is a heist. If JD VANCE had any intellectual honesty, he would acknowledge he was wrong when he said "40 percent of the people who are calling are actually committing fraud," but I am not holding my breath.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to use a prop during my remarks.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### THE ECONOMY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor having just listened to my colleague, the senior Senator from New York, the minority leader, talk about the upcoming efforts from the Republicans with regard to America's economy.

And if you ask me what is the No. 1 goal of the legislation that is being proposed, it is we want to prevent a \$4 trillion tax increase that will hit every working family in this country that the Democrats are for.

So he goes on and on about different things in the bill. Let's get down to the purpose of the bill, and it is to prevent a \$4 trillion tax increase that the Democrats support.

#### COAL

Mr. BARRASSO. But, Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about a different topic, and that topic is coal—and, specifically, Wyoming coal, which is world-class coal, clean coal, low-sulfur coal.

This is Wyoming coal. We need more of it—not less of it—to power our Nation. It is available, affordable, and reliable. This has powered our Nation for

over a century. It continues to be a major source of power for our Nation, and we need it far into the future.

And today, to that case, President Trump is going to sign an Executive order making clear his commitment to American energy independence. The President is moving very quickly in terms of boosting the coal industry. It is part of his bold plan that the administration has to restore American energy dominance.

We have more coal in this country than any other country in the world. It is one of our most affordable, reliable, and abundant sources of energy on the planet. And in America, we can use that coal cleaner than ever before.

Wyoming's Powder River Basin produces the cleanest burning coal in the world. Nearly half of all coal produced in America comes from the Powder River Basin in Wyoming and our neighboring State of Montana. Wyoming's energy warriors will lead the way.

For years, Democrats have held coal captive with reckless regulations, making it harder for us to use American energy and making us more dependent on foreign sources of energy. Joe Biden took coal offline in America. Democrats' war on American energy strained our grid, subsidized unreliable energy, and as a result, energy prices spiked in their administration by 31 percent. That hit American consumers, American manufacturers, American families; and it hurt our economy.

Meanwhile, what we know is that China is opening up two new coal-fired powerplants each and every week. It is hard to believe, but they are doing it. They continue to build those powerplants in China.

We will talk about what they want to do with that energy and what we need to do in America because President Trump is cutting redtape so we can compete again—compete with China. And coal is making a comeback. Wyoming wins, America wins, but not China.

What do Americans want? They want affordable, reliable, available power. We need the energy, and clean coal will deliver it. American energy is rocket fuel for a stronger economy—also, for a more secure Nation.

What does more energy mean? It means lower prices for consumers and manufacturers and producers. Electricity demand is projected to double by the year 2050. We cannot meet this demand if we lock up our valuable energy resources, but that is what the Democrats wanted us to do. That was the purity plan that they had the last 4 years.

High energy prices under the previous administration drove up food prices, fuel prices, and strained families. All of this hurt our Nation and hurt our economy. President Trump wants to produce more American energy, and that includes coal.

Investing in American energy lowers the cost of food. It puts more money back into families' pockets. This is

how we need to deal with the energy crunch that we are facing.

Plus, this creates more American jobs, brings jobs back to our country. Coal is an engine of our American economy, and the Democrats continue to treat it as an enemy. Everything we do in this country relies on energy. We need more energy, not less. Steel producers, manufacturers, data centers need steady, reliable power if we are going to compete and win. The electricity needed for data centers alone is predicted to increase by up to 20 percent each year over the next 5 years. Coal will help power them. It will give our industry an edge, a competitive advantage. In turn, more workers will find that they get steady, reliable paychecks. Coal miners will also get new opportunities. All of America will get a boost.

More American energy also means that data centers, artificial intelligence—which are major users of energy—will grow here in America, not overseas. With it, we can power our economy; we can win the energy race; we can win the AI, artificial intelligence, race against communist China.

More energy secures our Nation. Energy security is national security. Republicans understand it. President Trump understands it. That is why he is going to do what he is doing this afternoon at the White House, and I am delighted to have been invited to be part of it.

We don't need more liberal energy chokeholds. Energy independence is what matters for our Nation and our future. Europe, last year, spent \$23 billion on Russian oil and gas because they didn't have enough of their own energy. That is more money than Europe sent in aid to Ukraine. This shows you that Europe's energy crisis proves dependency upon our enemies for energy is self-defeating.

American energy dominance, including clean coal, reduces our Nation's vulnerability. The climate alarmists—and we hear them, and we understand they will come to the floor to talk about this—claim that coal is the energy of the past. They are misinformed. Clean coal is a fuel for the future. It is affordable, it is reliable, and it is ready to go.

President Trump knows that. He knows that coal is a key ingredient in an all-of-the-above energy strategy and agenda for our Nation. So I look forward to standing today with President Trump to celebrate this victory for Wyoming and for America and for a strong energy future for our Nation.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 37.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Mark Meador, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2024.

### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative 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. 37, Mark Meador, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2024.

John Thune, Mike Crapo, Roger Marshall, Shelley Moore Capito, Tommy Tuberville, Jim Justice, James Lankford, John Barrasso, Markwayne Mullin, Tim Sheehy, Mike Rounds, Todd Young, Kevin Cramer, Ted Budd, Roger F. Wicker, Katie Boyd Britt, Eric Schmitt.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators KAINE and COLLINS be allowed to complete their remarks prior to the scheduled rollcall votes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Virginia.

### RELIGIOUS WORKFORCE PROTECTION ACT

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for locking us in, and I think we will complete our comments well on time for the vote.

I am very pleased to be joined by my colleague Senator COLLINS as we introduce a bill called the Religious Workforce Protection Act. Our third cosponsor, Senator RISCH, is chairing a Foreign Relations Committee hearing right now but wanted me to comment that he is also a cosponsor of the bill.

This bill deals with a problem that I first saw in my parish, that, at the time, when I was talking to folks in my church about it, seemed like a small local problem, but it turns out it is a big national problem.

My church, Saint Elizabeth of Hungary, in Richmond, VA, was founded as an immigrant church. It was heavily for Italian- and German-American Catholics, right after World War I, who felt sort of looked askance upon because of the war, and they wanted to have their own parish that could be a haven for them. Now, a hundred-plus years later, my church is still an immigrant church, but it is about a third Congolese.