

Here is the final one I am going to mention. I don't want to put too fine a point on this: "Scientists Start To Tease Out The Subtler Ways Racism Hurts Health."

Now, look, you don't have to be a Latin scholar to see that these articles are biased—every single one of them—at the Federal level and at the State and local level in Louisiana. And you know what, that is the right of these State and local television stations. They have the right to say this stuff, but they don't have to say it with your money. They don't have the right to say it with your money.

Some of my colleagues are angry at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and NPR and PBS because of their obviously biased reporting. Now, that is just a fact. No fairminded American can look at these headlines and say that those aren't biased. And some of my colleagues are mad about that.

That is not what concerns me the most. I am sorry they are mad, but that is not what concerns me the most. My question is this: What in God's name—what on God's green Earth are we doing with a \$36 trillion deficit and \$36 trillion worth of debt, which is just accumulated deficits—why are we giving certain TV stations and certain radio stations in America but not others \$500 million a year? Why? They don't need it, and even if they did need it, they shouldn't get the money to the exclusion of every other media organization. What happened to treating all people and all entities similarly situated similarly?

So that is why I support abolishing the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

I want to say it again: The people who wrote these articles and the people who published these articles have every right to do that. I mean, I am a firm believer in the First Amendment. Without the First Amendment, how are we supposed to know who the idiots are? I support the First Amendment. These folks have the right to publish that, but they do not have the right to publish it with taxpayer money—\$500 million a year. And we know how—I think you know how I feel. We know how President Trump feels. But I hope the U.S. Congress, in our reconciliation package, abolishes the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and no longer gives them or any media organization in this country a single solitary dime of taxpayer money. That is not the role of the Federal Government. And, given these kinds of articles, to do so incites the anger of at least half of our country, and that is not right.

Mr. President, I suggest—well, I have a few minutes. Shoot, I am going to take them.

TARIFFS

Mr. President, I am going to talk about tariffs. I know there has been a lot going on about tariffs. I am not happy with what is happening in the stock market. None of us are. It has

been painful. I get it. But you know the stock market is just a reflection of the U.S. economy, and the American economy is the strongest economy in all of human history.

At this moment today, the current state of our economy is the best in the world vis-a-vis the other 195 countries in the world. You want to trade places with China? Not me. Not me. China's property market imploded. Their youth unemployment is over 20 percent. Consumer expectations in China are on a journey to the center of the Earth. They are reporting 5 percent growth, which is not true. They have a deflation. Their prices are going down. Do you know why? Because their economy is so bad.

I wouldn't trade places with the European Union. America's economy is much stronger than theirs.

I wouldn't trade places with Canada. I am not saying I am happy that the Canadian economy is in the doldrums; I am just saying that today, the American economy, despite the stock market, is the strongest right now in the world.

Still, I am not happy with what has happened in the market. It has been very, very painful. But if you believe in the American economy, then you have to believe in the stock market and you have to believe the stock market will recover. And I think it will. That is point one.

Point two, any fairminded person—any fairminded person would have to conclude that Donald J. Trump is tough as a boot. Whether you like him or not, the man is tough as a boot. Whether you agree with him or disagree with him, we would not be in the position that we in America are right now but for him. And what is that position?

There are 195 countries in the world; 70 percent of them are begging the President to negotiate the deal through which they can lower their trade barriers.

Now, we know—this is another thing every fairminded person knows—that many foreign nations have used trade barriers to hurt Americans and to hurt the American economy.

God created the world, but everything else was made in China. Where do you think that expression came from? It came from China cheating through its tariff barriers and its trade barriers. President Trump, whether you agree with him or not, has said: I am going to do something about it.

And he did. He did. And boy, did he get the attention of every other country, including, but not limited to, those countries that have been cheating. They are now coming to the table. In Louisiana, we say they have come to the lick-log. Do you know what a lick-log is? A lick-log is a tree, a fallen tree that farmers and ranchers used to go to, and they would hollow out a trough, and they would put salt and other minerals in that trough in the fallen tree that cattle and horses like to lick. And

it makes the cattle and horses healthy. That is what a lick-log is.

And an expression is when you get somebody to the table, you say they have come to the lick-log. Well, President Trump has got these countries, 70 out of 195 have already come to the table and said they want to lower their tariffs. And I think that is a good thing.

I have been preaching on this Senate floor for 2 weeks that what Prime Minister Carney in Canada and President Trump in America ought to do is turn to each other and say: Let's have zero tariffs. Zero Canadian tariffs on American goods and zero American tariffs on Canadian goods. Get government out of it. Let good Canadian companies and good American companies compete. Competition makes us better. May the best product at the lowest price win. I want to see that happen all over the world, and we have the opportunity to help make that happen in the world thanks to Donald Trump.

And I know some people are mad at him. But we wouldn't be in this position with this kind of leverage without him doing what he did. He is a pit bull. He is a Rottweiler. We know that. Tough as a boot.

But he is the pit bull that caught the car. And the issue before America right now, and I don't know the answer to it, what is President Trump going to do with that car? I don't know. I listened to his aides on television this weekend. They were all over the place.

Here is what I hope he does. Here is what I would do. I would sit down with each one of those countries that want to lower its trade barriers—some go to zero tariffs—and I would say: I will take a dozen. I will take a dozen. And we will do the same. That is what free trade is. And both economies would boom. I will take a dozen.

And that is what I hope President Trump does. Vietnam is offering zero tariffs. Taiwan is offering zero tariffs. The European Union is talking about it. China is all bowed up, but they will make a deal. And the only reason they are at the table lowering tariffs is because of President Trump.

Take the deal, Mr. President, please with—pretty please with sugar on top. Take the deal. Our economy will roar. It will be better for the world economy. I would be lying to you if I told you I knew what the President was going to do. I don't know what is in his head right now. I think I know what is in his heart.

But I am not going to try to feign omnipotence here in terms of what the future is going to hold.

I don't know what President Trump is going to do, but I believe as much as I am standing here that he ought to take these zero tariff deals. It will be good for America. It will be good for the world. He will have won.

So, Mr. President, if you are listening—you are probably not. But if you are, once again, pretty please with sugar on top. You have won. Please,

today call Secretary Bessent, your very able Treasury Secretary, and you and he sit down with every one of these countries that want to lower their trade barriers and let's make a deal.

Let's lift America up. Let's lift the world up. Let's lift trade up. Let's reduce these trade barriers, and let people compete. Let American businesses compete. Let foreign businesses compete. May the best product at the best price win. That is free enterprise.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

WAIVING QUORUM CALLS

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum calls with respect to the Johnson and Cabrera nominations.

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

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the rollcall vote begin now. I believe it was scheduled for 6 p.m.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

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. 68, Ronald Johnson, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Mexican States.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John R. Curtis, Rick Scott of Florida, Bernie Moreno, Pete Ricketts, Eric Schmitt, Jon A. Husted, Roger Marshall, Jim Justice, Tommy Tuberville, Bill Hagerty, Joni Ernst, James E. Risch, Marsha Blackburn, Tim Sheehy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 Ronald Johnson, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Mexican States, 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. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK).

Mr. DURBIN. I announced that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH),

the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 198 Ex.]

YEAS—52

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

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—4

Duckworth	McCormick
Hassan	Wyden

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ronald Johnson, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the United Mexican States.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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. 66, Kevin Cabrera, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Panama.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John R. Curtis, Rick Scott of Florida, Bernie Moreno, Pete Ricketts, Eric Schmitt, Jon A. Husted, Roger Marshall, Jim Justice, Tommy Tuberville, Bill Hagerty, Joni Ernst, James E. Risch, Marsha Blackburn, Tim Sheehy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 Kevin Cabrera, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Panama, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

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 Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 199 Ex.]

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—42

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

NOT VOTING—7

Duckworth	Murphy	Wyden
Hassan	Paul	
McCormick	Tillis	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 42, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kevin Cabrera, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Panama.