

The Trump administration is cleaning up this mess. Secretary of HHS Kennedy has already worked through about a third of this backlog. Three dozen cases have been accepted by the U.S. attorneys for prosecution, with 11 arrests and 3 convictions. Much more is needed, but this is a great first step.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, work on reconciliation continues apace. We are getting very close to the final bill.

Since I spoke on the floor on this topic last week, two more committees have released their sections of the bill text, the Banking Committee under the leadership of Chairman TIM SCOTT and the Commerce Committee under the leadership of Chairman TED CRUZ.

The Commerce Committee text released on Thursday addresses multiple bill priorities, including border security, savings, and the economy. On the economy front, the Commerce section of the bill focuses on boosting growth and investment by renewing spectrum auction authority and freeing up spectrum currently held by Federal Agencies.

The United States has been a leader in the next-generation telecommunications services like 5G and advanced Wi-Fi, and we are on track to be a leader in 6G as well. That is going to require both an increase in the amount of spectrum available to the private sector and using that spectrum as efficiently as possible through AI and other technologies.

Our bill will help meet that need for spectrum and help produce thousands of new jobs and billions of investment as a result, to say nothing of faster and more affordable internet for Americans.

This has been a long time coming.

I am grateful to Chairman CRUZ and colleagues from the Armed Services and Intel Committees for their continued work to find a way to get this done that preserves key national security interests and delivers a win for the American people.

On the border and national security front, the Commerce text addresses a key aspect of our domestic security: a strong Coast Guard. The Coast Guard secures our ports and waterways, provides support to American vessels in need, and plays a crucial role in enforcing maritime and immigration law and conducting drug interdictions.

Our final bill will make a substantial and sorely needed investment in the Coast Guard, including funding for des-

perately needed new ships and aircraft and maintenance of Coast Guard facilities.

Along with promoting safety of the seas, the Commerce text focuses on safety in the skies with a significant investment in fixing and updating our air traffic control system. The Commerce text also eliminates wasteful and unnecessary spending, which is the key focus of our bill.

So that was Thursday.

On Friday, the Banking Committee released its portion of the bill text, and eliminating unnecessary spending took center stage. Chairman SCOTT and Banking Committee Republicans pored over Federal programs to identify waste, duplication, and inefficiency and identified billions in savings. That includes eliminating the duplicative Office of Financial Research, transferring the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board's duties to the Securities and Exchange Commission to reduce duplication and lower costs, and postponing the implementation of duplicative small business lending data reporting requirements.

The Banking Committee's text also conserves taxpayer dollars by returning unused and unobligated funds to the Treasury. On the national security front, it authorizes \$1 billion for the Defense Production Act to boost domestic production of key national security needs.

I am grateful for the hard work of Chairman SCOTT, Chairman CRUZ, and for the hard work of all the members, both on and off the committees, who contributed to the Commerce and Banking text.

We have several more committees delivering texts this week, including border security language from the Judiciary Committee and energy language from the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Our final bill is rapidly taking shape. I am looking forward to considering it on the floor in the very near future. Republicans promised to build a stronger, safer, and more prosperous America, and we are going to deliver.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

LOS ANGELES PROTESTS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, from the moment Donald Trump entered the public sphere, he has thrived on division and diversion. He fans the flames of chaos, then pretends to be the firefighter—always looking for someone else to blame for the infernos he helps ignite—all in an attempt to divert Americans away from his many failures.

Now Donald Trump, cornered by his own failures from pushing a heartless bill that would rip healthcare away from 16 million Americans and raise costs from his reckless tariffs war, to waging war with Elon Musk—Trump is desperately seeking a distraction. His order to deploy the National Guard and Marines—our own troops on Americans—is not just outrageous and provocative; it is a dangerous authoritarian overreach that threatens the very fabric of our democracy. This isn't leadership; it is provocation.

To be very clear, violent protest is not the answer for achieving the work of justice—full stop. Protests must remain peaceful, and law and order must be maintained, but let me emphasize: Deploying federalized troops without a State's consent hasn't happened in over 60 years, and when it did, it was to protect civil rights heroes who were marching for justice in Selma, AL. That moment was about progress. This one is about power and intimidation.

We must all stand up and say loud and clear: America will not be bullied into submission by a President who confuses strength with force and democracy with domination.

Americans don't deserve more fear, more division, more chaos. The President is using the military not to protect the people but to silence them. He is playing politics with the lives of our troops and the safety of our citizens. It is shameful. It is unlawful. It is deeply un-American. Once again, President Trump is choosing chaos over competence and division over democracy.

We must all stand up and say loud and clear: America will not be bullied into submission by a President who confuses strength with force and democracy with domination.

The only consequence of Donald Trump's order of sending troops to Los Angeles is chaos, and Americans don't like it. Instead of deescalating, Donald Trump is pouring fuel into a fire, hoping for an explosion to distract from what he is really doing. President Trump should call back the National Guard and the Marines immediately and leave the work of law enforcement to the Governor and the mayor who are more than capable of keeping order without escalation.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Finally, Mr. President, let me repeat: As Donald Trump orders troops to Los Angeles, he is working here in Washington to steal healthcare from tens of millions of Americans. He is pushing a billionaire tax cut that will explode the debt and sink America's economic future. He is letting DOGE run Social Security to the ground. He is spiking costs for everyday Americans through his reckless tariffs war, and Donald Trump hopes that nobody is paying attention.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL

Mr. President, on reconciliation, Republicans continue their tortured effort to ram Donald Trump's "Big Ugly Betrayal" through Congress. In the

last few days, Senate Democrats have made the argument that the House Republican bill does not meet the requirements for privilege, and now Republicans have conceded that that is true. So the bill will have to be changed by House Republicans so it can meet privilege requirements.

This presents those Republicans who say they don't like parts of the bill with an unexpected opportunity. Now they have a chance to stand up and vote for their constituents. Speaker Johnson will try to rush a package of technical changes through the House to fix their mistakes. Every House Republican, though, now has a chance to reassert their leverage and force the bill back to the drawing board until they secure the changes they want. They say they don't like parts of the bill. Now is their opportunity to change it—no more ducking. They have their vote, and House Republicans, who claim loudly that they don't like parts of the bill, should use it to protect their constituents from the awful results of this horrible betrayal bill.

Now, Mr. President, let's talk about the costs of the so-called Big Beautiful Bill and why every American is going to pay a lot more. Trump ran by saying he was going to fight inflation. He is passing a bill that is going to increase American costs.

Last week, Senate Democrats zeroed in on the way Donald Trump's "Big Ugly Bill" will rip away healthcare from tens of millions of Americans, at least 16 million Americans in total—no healthcare.

This week, Senate Democrats will focus on how Donald Trump's bill will kill millions of jobs and send costs spiking for tens of millions of families. If Donald Trump's Big Beautiful Bill passes, Americans will pay thousands more out-of-pocket for everything from healthcare to energy to even their mortgages.

It is not just cutting Medicaid; Republicans are taking a meat cleaver at the ACA too. Under this bill, the average healthcare costs for people on the ACA will go up \$700 a year for over 20 million Americans. For New York families, it is much worse. New York couples covered through the ACA will pay \$2,700 more a year—that is about \$230 a month—\$2,700 extra for New Yorkers just to make life better for the billionaire class. And it is not just Americans who have ACA who will see costs go up. If you have private insurance—if you don't even have Federal insurance or ACA—you could be paying hundreds more a year too.

Just about everyone's healthcare costs are going to go up. People don't like paying that high cost to health insurance, but they are going to pay more because of Donald Trump and what he wants to do to help his billionaire buddies. All the while, while that is happening, hundreds of thousands of healthcare jobs will be lost, with some projections estimating 850,000 jobs will be lost in the healthcare economy while billionaires get more tax breaks.

Here is another fact: We are talking a lot about energy and clean energy and the cheapest way to produce new energy. Well, if the Big Beautiful Bill—so-called—becomes law, the average family's energy costs will go up \$400 in the upcoming years. Starting next year, average electricity prices will go up by 10 percent.

Hear that, America? You don't like it when your utility bill goes up? Well, Donald Trump and his rightwing ideologues are making it go up further because Donald Trump and the oil magnates he hangs around harbor a deranged hatred of clean energy, and they want to raise taxes on clean energy. Clean energy is the cheapest way to produce new energy. Solar is cheaper than any other way, and they are cutting it off, and that is going to raise your price on the cost of your energy bill, ladies and gentlemen, all Americans.

What is more, in addition to raising your energy prices, what they are doing is projected to cost our economy an additional 800,000 jobs. Between healthcare jobs and energy jobs—millions of good-paying jobs to be killed by the bill—some economists I have spoken to say the job losses could push us into a recession.

Even many Republicans know this would be destructive, but they need to speak up and use their leverage. Republicans who claim to fight for jobs and families back home should oppose any proposal that makes energy costs go up.

It is amazing. Here, even Trump and his people say we need a lot more new energy for AI, et cetera, and then they cut off the quickest, cheapest, easiest way to produce new energy. Why? Because the rightwing fossil fuel magnates in Trump's ear hate clean energy because they know it is the future. They know. They know that oil, gas, and coal are not the future, and, yet, they try to kill it.

Also, if the Republican bill becomes law, homeowners could see an extra \$600 to \$1,200 a year through higher interest rates on their home loans.

Last week, the CBO estimated that the Republican billionaire tax cuts would add \$2.4 trillion to the debt over the next decade. When you consider the cost of increased debt service, this rotten bill will add \$3 trillion to the debt over the next decade, and that is going to make it harder for Americans to buy a home, to buy a car, to start a business—dooming the middle class to a lifetime of higher rates.

And let's not forget the insurance prices as well. Insurance rates are going up for many people in many areas, particularly coastal areas, and now this Trump bill will make that worse because we are cutting off clean energy. It doesn't make much sense. Many people can't sell their houses or buy a house because flood and tornado insurance have raised the cost of insurance. And here we go again: cut off clean energy, make it worse, make people's insurance costs go up further.

So Elon Musk, as wrong as he is on so many things, says this bill is dangerous. Do you hear that, Republicans? Elon Musk, whom you guys are supposed to love, says the bill is dangerous.

So, when you step back and look at the big picture, there is nothing beautiful about the Republican bill. If Senate Republicans pass this heaping pile of legislative junk, it is not going to grow the economy; it is not going to help the middle class; it is not going to help working families climb the ladder. All it is going to do is make families pay more while billionaires pay less.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, on Social Security, Elon Musk might have been run out of town, but his handiwork lives on at the Social Security Administration.

Do you remember he called Social Security a big Ponzi scheme? Well, he is gone, but the Social Security Administrator, newly put in despite vehement opposition from Democrats because he is known as "Mr. Slash and Burn," Frank Bisignano said that, Musk or not, DOGE will remain king at SSA—DOGE. Do you remember that, folks—the chain saw? Well, it is going to be alive and well at Social Security with Mr. Bisignano in charge, "Mr. Slash and Burn," "Mr. Cut, Cut, Cut." It is alarming that, even after Elon Musk became persona non grata amongst Trump's circles, the Social Security Administrator still wants to keep using his failed playbook to oversee seniors' Social Security checks.

Social Security is sacred in America. Even after Musk's departure, which occurred in part because of DOGE's failure, this administration is talking about applying DOGE's strategies to Social Security—probably the most popular and sacrosanct program passed in the last 100 years. It shows how the billionaires like Elon Musk and Howard Lutnick—remember what he said. He said his mom could afford to miss a payment or two. It shows that these billionaires are running the show, and they are callous and cruel. They have no understanding of how average senior citizens depend on that Social Security check. It is a disgrace, and Donald Trump and his political cohort will pay a political price for endangering this popular program.

It is nice to talk about efficiency, but by now, we know there is nothing efficient about DOGE. It led to closures, longer wait times on the phone, glitches online, and an immense anxiety for seniors. Bisignano should send DOGE staffers packing before they cause more trouble with seniors' Social Security benefits.

HHS VACCINE ADVISORY PANEL

Finally, Mr. President, on RFK, Jr., and the vaccine, well, this morning, the American people are waking up fundamentally less safe from deadly diseases than they were yesterday because, yesterday, in one reckless move, HHS Secretary Robert Kennedy, Jr., purged every—every—expert from the CDC's vaccine advisory panel.