

contributions he made to our State, I think John's goodness, the pureness and the deepness of his heart, is what I will miss the most.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TUBERVILLE). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask that the scheduled rollcall vote begin immediately.

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

VOTE ON GOULD NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Gould nomination?

Mr. KENNEDY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 383 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Duckworth	Hirono
Baldwin	Durbin	Kaine
Bennet	Fetterman	Kelly
Blunt Rochester	Gallego	Kim
Booker	Gillibrand	King
Cantwell	Hassan	Klobuchar
Coons	Heinrich	Lujan
Cortez Masto	Hickenlooper	Markey

Merkley	Sanders	Van Hollen
Murray	Schatz	Warner
Ossoff	Schiff	Warnock
Padilla	Schumer	Warren
Peters	Shaheen	Welch
Reed	Slotkin	Whitehouse
Rosen	Smith	Wyden

NOT VOTING—5

Blumenthal	Hawley	Tillis
Graham	Murphy	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be notified immediately of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

RESCISSION

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, last week, Republicans made the wrong kind of history. That is because last week, they passed what may well be the single most expensive piece of legislation in the history of our country—all to help the rich and hurt the poor. This should go in the "Guinness Book of World Records."

Let's not forget that the history doesn't end there because they passed the biggest bill in the history of the Senate with the biggest gimmick in the history of the Senate by basically saying that trillions of dollars in tax cuts for billionaires are free.

This farce is only getting worse because now do you know what Republicans are turning to? Do you know what the next order of business in the Senate is? They are going to take up President Trump's request to slash local news and bipartisan foreign policy investments in order to "balance the debt." That is a serious case of amnesia.

Republicans just saddled the national credit card with \$4 trillion in debt—that is trillions with a "t"—so that they could give massive tax breaks to the richest people in the country. They would have added even more to that debt if they hadn't cut over \$1 trillion in healthcare and nutrition assistance for millions of Americans.

But now that it has passed, now that they have saddled the next generation with loads of debt to help billionaire donors, many Republicans want to return to talking now about getting the Nation's fiscal house in order. Are you kidding me? Do you really think we don't remember what just happened last week? Thank goodness for C-SPAN, and we all should review the tape.

One week ago, Republicans were pretending trillions in debt for tax giveaways to their corporate buddies and megadonors was nothing—literally nothing. Now these same Republicans say that local news, which provides crucial information in emergencies, is just too expensive to support. Now these same Republicans say that we can't afford to continue lifesaving aid that prevents famine and epidemics even though—keep in mind—we are talking about a sum total of less than

0.14 percent of our overall Federal budget. The irony is almost as rich as the corporate CEOs, who made out like bandits in that big, awful mess the Republicans passed last week.

This rescissions package is not just bad because many Republicans are trying to have it both ways on deficits and the debt now; it is just plain bad on the substance. These cuts hurt our communities, and they hurt our country.

Let's start with the local news.

Republicans are trying to rip away investments that support over 1,500 local public TV and radio stations. These are stations that serve rural areas and that give them local news you simply cannot find anywhere else. It is coverage that matters to people, like what community events are coming up, how the school board is preparing for next year, weather and market reports for our farmers, not to mention emergency alerts when a disaster strikes.

You do not have to look hard to find an example of how important it is that we get disaster warnings right.

When the devastating wildfires hit Southern California earlier this year, public radio broadcasts let millions of people know how to stay safe.

When Hurricane Helene battered North Carolina, a local public radio station was the only source of information for many people.

Then, of course, there was the recent tragedy in Texas and a flooding in New Mexico. These were incredibly deadly floods. My heart goes out to all of the families who were affected, especially those who lost loved ones, and my deep gratitude goes out to our first responders. I am committed to helping those communities recover, to coming together like we always do as a nation after a tragedy.

While we learn more now about what is needed, one thing that all of our communities need is a strong emergency response system. One thing I can tell you is, when dangers arise, cutting local news stations, silencing trusted sources that can push out important warnings when cell towers fail and your home internet connection goes out, won't make anything better.

Don't even get me started on how this rescissions bill will hurt free educational programming for countless kids. We are talking about shows that kids and parents love. But after saddling our country with trillions in debt for billionaires, many Republicans are saying: There is just not a penny left for our kids. Sorry. We are going to feed Big Bird to the fat cats.

That is the message Republicans are sending here. This isn't quite how they would put it on "Sesame Street," but America knows that message is brought to you by the letters "BS," and it is so dangerously shortsighted. Talk to any parent. They will warn you that if the Republicans' cuts end up canceling free, high-quality programming that is thoughtfully developed to get kids thinking and growing their curiosity, there is an alarming amount of

low-quality junk to fill that void—content that is instead carefully engineered to keep kids watching and shorten their attention spans.

Actually, do you know what, it makes sense. Maybe getting our kids hooked on brain-rot TV is part of the Republican plan. After all, if our kids are watching PBS, they might learn to count, and if our kids learn to count, how will Republicans ever convince anyone that trillions of dollars in tax cuts are free?

So I know. Let's not forget. President Trump wants Senate Republicans to rip up investments they themselves—they themselves—helped secure to advance America's global leadership. Apparently, being the leader of the free world is now just too expensive.

The reality of that matter is that these are investments that pay off for our own country, from supporting American farmers and companies that provide the food assistance that saves lives; to stopping dangerous viruses and epidemics while they are still far overseas, away from us, before they have a chance to threaten American lives; to preventing conflict, avoiding chaos and crisis that can cause a dangerous spiral; to strengthening our ties with key partners and defending our interests in international organizations.

We don't just make these investments because they are the right thing to do; we do it because it is the smart thing to do for America. But it is worth saying that it is the right thing to do as well.

It is unthinkable wrong that this President is willing to shell out trillions for some of the richest people in the world, only to turn around and say that less than a penny a day is too expensive to protect hundreds of thousands of little girls from HIV. It is wrong for Republicans to say, "Oh, we have got to get those corporate executives a bigger bonus," only to turn around next week and say, "Oh, we don't really have to worry about the work our farmers do to help those starving kids." It is also foolish to think that this is just a luxury or just charitable work. Our farmers know better. Americans who contract infectious diseases abroad know better. The companies in our States that work overseas to stabilize conflict-affected communities alongside the DOD know better. It is bad strategy and a surefire way to hand China the upper hand. But we cannot lose sight of the fact that it is just plain wrong.

Let's be clear. If they cut this funding, Republicans will not just be turning America away from the world; they will be turning the world away from America.

Do Republicans really want to cause needless suffering or slash bipartisan funding and break commitments we already made together to save a quick buck? Is America's credibility so cheap to them?

They talk about peace through strength as if they are carrying on Ronald Reagan's legacy. Reagan spent about a half a percent of our GDP on foreign assistance. Today, we spend less than half that.

Keep in mind that cuts proposed here are really a drop in the bucket compared to the tsunami of spending and tax giveaways that Republicans just passed. I mean, you could cut every single penny the U.S. has spent on foreign assistance since World War II, and it would not add up to the cost of the tax cuts the Republicans passed last week. And that is all saying nothing about how pushing this through won't just cut bipartisan investments; it will cut out the heart of the basic principles that make bipartisan deals possible. How are we supposed to negotiate a bipartisan deal if Republicans turn around and put it through the shredder in a partisan vote?

This entire package next week should be rejected outright. There is nothing about it that is serious except for the threat it poses to our communities.

To suggest even for a second that Republicans are doing this to address the debt is laughable, and I encourage the American people to laugh at anyone who pretends as much because you could cut the equivalent of this bill every single day for an entire year and it still would not match the cost of the billionaire tax cuts the Republicans passed last week.

So, to my Republican colleagues, instead of doing Trump's dirty work, instead of doing Russell Vought's bidding, let's do our jobs. Reject these partisan cuts to bipartisan funding and turn our focus squarely to the job ahead: writing bipartisan, full-funding appropriations bills.

Do you know what? If there is a discrete pot of funding that is not being spent well, if there are cuts that make sense to include, if there are things that need to be updated and things that need to be reformed, let's have a conversation about what makes sense to rescind and improve as we write those bills in committee, the way we have always done.

My Democratic colleagues and I have said for months that we are willing to discuss rescissions in our bipartisan spending bills. We have done this in a bipartisan fashion for years no matter who has been in the White House or which party has had the majority in either Chamber.

My commitment to Chair COLLINS and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle remains the same: I am willing to work with you to include rescissions in our bipartisan spending bills as we continue to work on the fiscal year 2026 process.

Instead of moving forward with this partisan rescissions package, let's reject that package and have these discussions and work together. Let's move forward on the bipartisan appropriations process and address all of those decisions there.

I yield the floor.

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.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative business and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-59, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Israel for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$510 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-59

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Israel.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$500 million.
Other \$ 10 million.
Total \$510 million.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing