

Another example is in the 1990s, Congress enabled cost sharing in the Children's Health Insurance Program. To this day, States are allowed and do impose cost sharing in that program. Even socialist proposals like Medicare for All have also included cost sharing.

So I want to make very clear: This is nothing new. Modest cost sharing is a commonsense policy for those benefitting from a government program and who have the means to pay for it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I know that August is approaching, but we still have some serious work to do here in Washington. We need to make further progress on appropriations, and we have a number of President Trump's nominations to get through.

Despite a historic level of obstruction from Democrats, Senate Republicans have been maintaining a brisk pace on confirming President Trump's nominees. We have confirmed 107 civilian nominees, nearly doubling the pace in President Trump's first administration at this point. And we have done it with good, old-fashioned hard work.

Thanks in substantial part to our commitment to getting President Trump's team in place, the Senate has taken 437 votes so far this year, which is more than in any Congress at this point in the last 35-plus years.

In fact, we have taken more votes in 2025 already, in less than 7 months, than the Senate has taken in a full 12 months for 32 of the past 36 years.

So we have kept up a very intense pace. But there are a number of nominees still waiting for confirmation, and we are going to get through a lot more of them soon.

And so we can do this the easy way or the hard way, and that is really up to Senate Democrats.

As I said, we have confirmed President Trump's civilian nominees at nearly double the pace of his first administration so far through a lot of hours spent here in the Senate, but we would have a lot more nominees confirmed at this point if Democrats hadn't decided to drag out every nomination.

Democrats have not allowed a single civilian Trump nominee to pass by unanimous consent or voice vote, even when Democrats have ultimately ended up supporting the nomination in significant numbers. I refer to this as a historic level of obstruction, and I mean it.

President Trump is the only President on record—to not have a single one of his

civilian nominees confirmed by unanimous consent or voice vote at this point in his Presidency—the only President on record.

Now, just to offer a point of comparison here, by this point in his Presidency, President Biden had 44 civilian nominees confirmed by voice vote. President Trump hasn't had 1—44 for Biden, 0 for President Trump. So when I say this is a historic level of obstruction from Democrats, I mean it. That is not a Republican talking point; it is just a fact.

Democrats haven't offered a shred of courtesy to President Trump, to the voters who elected him, or to the people who have stepped up to serve our country in his administration.

So the ball is in Democrats' court. They can continue to drag out the process on even the most uncontroversial nominees and we can spend a lot more hours with each other in the Senate Chamber or they can rein in their reflexive, anti-Trump sentiment and allow some of his rank-and-file nominees to proceed by unanimous consent or voice vote, just as Republicans did when the roles were reversed.

I would remind my colleagues about the dangerous and ugly precedent they are setting here, but the choice is theirs. But whether it is the slow way or the fast way, we are getting President Trump's nominees confirmed.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive 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.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, while Senate Republicans have been focused on pushing partisan politics that would crush middle-class Americans all to pay for tax cuts for billionaires, while House Republicans are ignoring their responsibility to fund the government by leaving town early for the Epstein recess, and while the Trump administration continues to push policies that are sending costs up, chaos up, corruption up, Senate Democrats and House Democrats—myself, Leader JEFFRIES, and both of our caucuses—are fighting to build a new vision for America. I am working closely with Leader JEFFRIES, alongside Senator KLOBUCHAR and Congresswoman DINGELL, on a united vision.

The American people are fed up with the costs, chaos, and corruption of the Trump administration and the aiding and abetting Republicans have done at his behest.

Republican policies have sent the price of groceries, housing utility bills, essential goods, and more skyrocketing.

They have gutted healthcare and essential services for working families, like Medicare and Medicaid. They have spiked healthcare premiums and put hospitals around the country in crisis mode. Many are talking about closing, and a few have already closed, leaving people without the healthcare they need—all for tax cuts for billionaires.

They have unleashed rampant levels of corruption and warped our democracy, empowering the wealthy and well-connected to profit off the backs of working families. Donald Trump seems to be at the top of the list in using his government position to make personal profit.

But Senate and House Democrats are fighting back. Democrats are fighting to lower the high costs of living, which have become far too expensive for American families.

We are fighting to strengthen our communities, make our streets safer, and protect essential services that millions of people rely on every single day.

Instead of further breaking our healthcare system—ripping healthcare away from millions—we think the healthcare system should be easier, not harder, for Americans to access and navigate and to afford. We are also fighting to fix our broken healthcare system to make sure that people who need the care can get it and be able to afford it.

We are fighting to rid our government of the scourge of corruption. There is so much corruption and self-dealing and rich people—billionaires—getting richer in terms of how they operate and what the government passes and doesn't pass. We are fighting to rid our government of that scourge. It has run rampant—the scourge of corruption has run rampant—under Donald Trump and Republicans. It is one of the most corrupt administrations in American history.

The bottom line is this: Senate and House Democrats are united in creating an America that works better for everyone, not just the wealthy, not just the well-connected, and we will use every tool at our disposal in the appropriations process and beyond to fight back against the disastrous Donald Trump and Republican agenda.

EUROPEAN UNION TRADE DEAL

Now, Mr. President, on the trade deal, over the weekend, Donald Trump announced a new trade “deal” with the European Union. It will result in a \$90 billion-per-year tax hike on American families. When you raise tariffs, the American families pay for it, a \$90 billion tax on American families in this tariff deal with the European Union.

Donald Trump is, as usual, trying to hype up, exaggerate, and lie—Donald Trump almost always lies—about his accomplishments, and this is no exception. In Trump's frenzy to divert attention away from the Epstein scandal, Trump is, once again, totally making things up.

And what does the American consumer get out of this tax hike? A 15-

percent increase on everyday goods. This deal is a 15-percent Trump tax on American consumers, plain and simple.

Trump would have you believe it is the “biggest deal ever”—those are his words—dangling \$250 billion in new energy purchases and more in new investments. There is just one hiccup. It is fake. Even today’s Wall Street Journal has pierced this miasma of distortion. Even if the EU purchased every dollar of American exports of crude oil and liquefied natural gas, it wouldn’t come close to meeting these promises—something Europe understands. Europe has admitted that this “agreement” isn’t legally binding and that they have no control over whether these investments even happen.

If this sounds familiar, it is because we have already seen this show before—in the major agreement that Trump announced with Japan last week, where he claimed Japan had promised \$550 billion in new investment, but now we know the real amount is only as much as 2 percent of the promised amount.

Again, he just fakes it; he makes it up. I know he is in a frenzy about the Epstein scandal, but that doesn’t give him the excuse to just make things up. That is what happens. A day later, after the dust settles, it is clear that so much of what he has said about these tariff deals, whether it is with Japan or Europe, is just not true.

In the meantime, American consumers now pay higher tariffs on goods from Japan and Europe. Donald Trump wants people to breathe a sigh of relief that his tariff isn’t 30 percent but now is only 15 percent. But the American people aren’t going to be fooled when their prices go up. Donald Trump was so desperate—so desperate—to get a trade deal done after falling short of his promise of 90 deals in 90 days, which is another hyped-up claim, that he sold out American families just to try and claim a win. It is not a win—not for him and not for the American people.

It means more money out of people’s pockets for everyday items like groceries, medicine, electronics, cars, and more. When you go to the grocery store, it could be 15 percent more expensive. When you buy a car, it will be 15 percent more expensive.

It also means a tighter strain for small businesses across America who are already struggling to keep their doors open due to high costs.

Donald Trump can claim all he wants that this is the “biggest deal ever made,” but American families and small businesses—the ones footing the bill—know much better.

This new “deal” with the EU is nothing more than a massive tax hike for families and small businesses, signed in desperation, paid for by the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). The Senator from Texas.

NEW WORLD SCREWORM

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, it won’t surprise anybody that the State of Texas has long been the leading State in the cattle industry, supplying the Nation with steaks, hamburgers, and other protein products that grace many of our dinner tables every night.

Texas ranks first in the Nation in cattle production, coming in at 12 million head a year, representing nearly 15 percent of the total production in the United States and generating more than \$1 billion in revenue.

Unfortunately, this essential food supply and corresponding food price are under threat from the outbreak of a particularly pernicious parasite called the New World screwworm. The New World screwworm lays its eggs in the wombs of warmblooded animals, particularly livestock. The larvae then burrow into the opening, creating infections that, left untreated, can cause animals to die within a week.

With no known vaccinations to prevent infections, outbreaks in cattle herds require labor-intensive daily inspections of livestock to make sure they have not been infested.

Since 2023, there have been outbreaks of this deadly insect in Panama, Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, and Costa Rica, a country that ended up declaring the New World screwworm a national emergency in 2024.

Last November, the fly made its way back to Mexico. This, of course, has raised concerns among Texas cattle ranchers that it may soon come across the border and lead to an outbreak in our State.

Earlier this month, the threat became even more acute as a case of New World screwworm was reported less than 400 miles south of the United States-Mexico border.

An outbreak of the New World screwworm in the State of Texas is estimated to cost U.S. livestock producers approximately \$1 billion and cost the general economy \$3.7 billion due to lost production of meat and milk, as well as livestock death, veterinary costs, labor costs, and more.

This would be absolutely devastating to places like Texas but also to the entire country. Knowing I was coming to the floor to speak about this, I asked my staff to look at what other States might be implicated, and it is virtually every State in the Nation, including the great State of Alabama that produces an estimated 1.2 million head of cattle on an annual basis.

Thankfully, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has snapped into action. Secretary Rollins is currently working with our international partners on an ambitious plan to slow the spread of this terrible parasite.

In May, Secretary Rollins closed U.S. ports to Mexican cattle, bison, and horses to prevent an additional spread. And while these ports were initially scheduled to begin reopening as early as this month, additional cases have delayed that timeline.

But, of course, halting our imports will increase costs for all consumers; and while it is an important part of stopping this parasite, it is not a permanent solution.

For that, we can look to history as our guide. The last time North America faced a similar outbreak of the screwworm was back in the 1960s.

During that contagion, we were able to eradicate these deadly infestations, countering the spread by producing sterile male flies. The sterile male flies mate with the female flies who can only mate once during their lifetime; so, by releasing large numbers of these sterile male flies, the population growth of this parasite can be stopped in its tracks.

This approach worked in the 1960s, and I am hopeful that it will work again in this decade.

As we speak, there is only one sterile fly plant in North America, located in Panama. This plant is operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and by COPEG, or the Panama-U.S. Commission for the Eradication and Prevention of Screwworm Infestation in Livestock, which was established in 1998.

As the New World screwworm continues traveling north, we need another plan to prevent population spread. A sterile fly plant will cost as much as \$300 million according to some estimates, and that is certainly not just pocket change. But it pales in comparison with the cost of not doing anything to eradicate this terrible threat.

The economic impact of the devastation that continued spread would cause my State is estimated to be as high as \$10 billion, and this would not be limited to Texas, as I said. It would include other cattle-producing States, including Kansas, Nebraska, California, and New Mexico, who, along with Texas, are the primary cattle-producing regions in the country.

Recently, the U.S. and Mexican Governments have partnered to invest in renovating the existing fruit fly-producing facility in Mexico, aiming to further the long-term goal of eradication.

In addition, USDA is building a sterile fly dispersal facility in Hidalgo, TX, in the Rio Grande Valley.

To build on top of these efforts, I will be offering an amendment during the appropriations process on the floor to ensure that the United States is prepared to combat the threat of this parasite.

I am grateful to Secretary Rollins for her leadership. As a Texan, perhaps she understands this threat better than most, and I am confident in her strong and decisive leadership toward eradicating this parasite and that it will reap rewards.

But it is not going to happen by itself. We are going to have to, unfortunately, not only authorize the production of this sterile fly capability—which we have done in the One Big Beautiful Bill—we are actually going