

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, we are coming up on the 1-month anniversary of Senate passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill, and there is a lot to celebrate: sorely needed funding to restore our military readiness and ensure that our men and women in uniform are fully equipped to defend our country; funding to continue the work of securing the border, ending the illegal immigration crisis that President Biden created; \$1½ trillion in Byrd-compliant savings to trim waste, fraud, and abuse, and put our government on a more secure financial footing going forward; measures to unleash American energy production to ensure a stable, reliable, and affordable energy supply for the American people; support for local law enforcement—all this and a whole lot more.

And I could talk about each of these things for a good long while, but the biggest reason for the One Big Beautiful Bill, of course, was about making life better for hard-working Americans, and that is what I want to talk about today. Without congressional action, Americans were facing a massive \$4 trillion tax hike next year. For a typical family in my State of South Dakota, that would have looked like a \$2,500 tax increase—\$2,500. That is a lot of money.

And the first thing Republicans were determined to do, if we got elected last November, was to make sure that Americans were not hit with this tax hike. And so months before last year's elections, we started laying the groundwork for an extension of the 2017 tax relief to prevent tax hikes on hard-working Americans.

But not just an extension.

My Senate Republican colleagues and I were determined to ensure that this tax relief was permanent so that Americans wouldn't have to worry about their taxes going up down the road, and that is what we did. The One Big Beautiful Bill makes the 2017 tax relief permanent, and it prevents a massive \$4 trillion tax hike on the American people.

But we didn't stop there. We didn't just make the 2017 tax relief permanent. We added to it with new measures to provide relief for hard-working Americans.

We increased the child tax credit to \$2,200 and indexed it to inflation so its value will never go down. We increased the standard deduction, exempting additional money from Americans' taxable income, and we added a new \$6,000 bonus deduction for seniors, allowing Americans on Social Security to keep more of their money.

And that is still not all.

We eliminated taxes on tips for millions of tip workers: Uber and Lyft drivers, hairstylists, delivery drivers, and servers at restaurants. We elimi-

nated taxes on overtime pay for millions of hourly workers. That includes individuals like nurses and police officers, firefighters and paramedics—people who put in extra time away from their families to keep Americans safe.

And the list goes on.

Americans can now deduct the interest costs of a new car that is made here in America. Parents can save for their children's futures with new investment accounts funded by an initial \$1,000 deposit from the government. Then there is the small business tax relief and the other measures to unleash economic growth to create new opportunities for workers.

This bill is going to make life better for hard-working Americans, and now it is time to make sure they know the details. As I indicated, this bill is the product of more than a year of work and of incredibly intense work in the last few months. Now that we have passed it, it would be easy to feel like our work is done, but that is not the case. A lot of time went into putting together this bill, and an equal amount of time or more needs to be spent ensuring that hard-working Americans are aware of the opportunities this bill offers. That means not just talking about the bill here in Washington but going back to our States and talking about it with our constituents face-to-face.

We are extremely familiar with the details of our legislation—we have been working on it for a long time—but that doesn't mean that all of those details have made their way out of Washington, and our job now is to make sure that they do, to make sure that our constituents have the chance to learn about everything that is in the One Big Beautiful Bill in face-to-face conversations with all of us—the people who know this bill best.

Communicating about this bill should be a priority when we are in Washington but especially when we are in cities and towns across America. It has been a tough few years for the American people. Let's make sure they know that a brighter future is on the way.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 90.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Brian Nesvik, of Wyoming, to be Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

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 senior assistant 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. 90, Brian Nesvik, of Wyoming, to be Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

John Thune, Tommy Tuberville, Bernie Moreno, Tim Sheehy, John Barrasso, John R. Curtis, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Rounds, Katie Boyd Britt, Roger Marshall, Pete Ricketts, John Boozman, David McCormick, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Rick Scott of Florida, Eric Schmitt, Lindsey Graham.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. I move to proceed to legislative session.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 192.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Luigi Rinaldi, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay.

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 senior assistant 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. 192, Luigi Rinaldi, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay.

John Thune, Tommy Tuberville, Bernie Moreno, Tim Sheehy, John Barrasso,

John R. Curtis, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Rounds, Katie Boyd Britt, Roger Marshall, Pete Ricketts, John Boozman, David McCormick, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Rick Scott of Florida, Eric Schmitt, Lindsey Graham.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to resume Executive Calendar No. 182.

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

The senior Senator from Wyoming.

MEDICAID

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I just heard the minority leader, once again, come to the U.S. Senate Chamber and cry wolf. This time, it is about Medicaid reform.

Let's be very clear: We need to strengthen Medicaid, and we did that in the bill that we just passed and was signed into law. The minority leader, once again, puts fear above the facts. He is upset. He is upset because Republicans are asking able-bodied adults to work if they want to receive taxpayer-funded healthcare benefits.

He also is upset because Republicans believe that illegal immigrants should not receive Medicaid benefits. Let me set the record straight. Medicaid is for the vulnerable. It was never meant to cover able-bodied, working-aged adults who refuse to work nor was it meant to cover illegal immigrants whom the Democrats continue to embrace. Today, there are over 1.2 million illegal immigrants receiving Medicaid benefits. Today, there are 4.8 million able-bodied, working-aged adults who refuse to work who are on Medicaid. That doesn't strengthen Medicaid. It strains it. It weakens it. It makes it harder for the people who need Medicaid whom Medicaid was designed for. It also wastes taxpayer dollars.

Work requirements are common sense. You know, they used to be bipartisan. Bill Clinton, from the Presiding Officer's home State, signed that into law in the 1990s. President Obama defended it in 2008. President Obama said: Work must be the centerpiece of any social policy. Democrats today don't believe that. They think Clinton was wrong, and they think Obama was wrong. They are for laziness, and they are for illegal immigrants.

The Democrats, today, are defending dependency rather than independency. That is what they are doing today. That is what CHUCK SCHUMER did on the floor of the U.S. Senate this morning.

Republicans believe in a safety net—a safety net to help people reach their full potential, to get back up on their feet. We believe in hard work. We believe in work as part of somebody's identity, their dignity, their self-worth, how they view themselves as role models for their children. If you are healthy and you refuse to work, it is a choice you may want to make, but don't expect the taxpayers to pay for

it. No child, no pregnant woman, or disabled person will lose coverage.

What the Democrats want to do is remove work requirements and continue to fund healthcare—Medicaid—for illegal immigrants. That is just not fair to everyone else.

Mr. President, I came to the floor to talk about a different topic, but in listening to the minority leader, I couldn't help myself but to talk about just how far to the left the Democrats have gone, and, oh, it is no surprise that they are at their lowest level ever in the polls. The front page of the Wall Street Journal this weekend shows Democrats at an alltime low in the history of polling in terms of the people who identify with the Democratic Party and who reject the Democratic Party. Only one in three accepts what the Democrats are preaching while 63 percent of the American people do not identify with that at all.

This is no surprise given the Democrats' goal of raising taxes and making illegal immigration easier and continuing to recruit more illegal immigrants to this Nation by offering a lot of free things, which is what the Democrats want to continue to do, but that is not the reason I came to the floor today.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. President, I came to the floor to talk about another critical issue facing our Nation, and that is to speak about an arms race—an arms race that America is currently engaged in. It is an arms race regarding artificial intelligence, and energy is the ammunition in that arms race. Whoever powers the AI revolution will win the AI arms race.

As we unleash affordable, reliable American energy, America will lead the world when it comes to artificial intelligence. The fact is, artificial intelligence takes power—brainpower, computing power. Above all else, it takes literal power—energy, electricity—to power these powerful computers. Artificial intelligence is groundbreaking technology. It is more than just chat bots and search engines. It is next-generation defense systems. It is lifesaving medical breakthroughs. It is revitalized manufacturing and real-time data.

These are huge advantages of artificial intelligence, but to harness the potential of artificial intelligence, we need computer servers, and to power those servers, we need energy and lots of it. Because of AI, we are seeing the biggest surge of energy demand in decades.

The New York Times put it this way, in a story that was on the front page, that said: In the next 5 years, new demand for energy, including the demand to power AI, will be like adding another California to the electric grid.

That is how much energy we need.

So the question for this body is simple: Where is the energy going to come from?

Now, my Democrat colleagues are going to hate what I am going to say

because adequate energy is not going to come from windmills and wishful thinking. It is not going to come from climate mandates or from Chinese solar panels. Democrats tried that during the Biden administration. Remember, Joe Biden told the Environmental Protection Agency to prioritize climate over energy that was affordable, available, and reliable.

How did that turn out?

Well, as the Presiding Officer remembers, as a result, energy prices rose 31 percent in the 4 years of the Biden administration. Today, our energy grids, because of what the Biden administration did, are stressed, stretched, and strained. One informed adviser said this week that the largest grid in America simply has no new capacity to meet the new demand.

America is going to lose the AI race unless we break our dependence on foreign minerals and foreign energy. The energy we need is not going to come from Democrat green-deal fantasies. It is going to come from America's energy breadbasket.

My home State of Wyoming is at the heart of America's energy breadbasket. It is where America's energy future begins. Wyoming has powered America for more than a century, and now, once again, Wyoming is answering the call. We are drilling; we are mining; we are producing; and we are building.

Earlier this month, I visited the Brook Mine. It is located just outside of Sheridan, WY. The Brook Mine is the first new coal mine in Wyoming in 50 years. It is also the first rare earth mineral mine in America in 70 years. This mine holds over billion tons of coal and nearly 2 million tons of critical rare earth minerals.

This is how Republicans are bringing jobs, energy, and security back to America. We are doing so at a time when the world needs American energy more than ever.

President Trump, just this weekend, announced a historic energy trade deal with the European Union. President Trump secured an agreement for the EU to buy \$750 billion of American energy. The deal also brings \$600 billion in new investments right here at home, into the United States. President Trump is a master dealmaker, and he has proved so once again this week.

Wyoming energy workers are ready to power the world.

It is not just with our allies abroad; private companies are announcing historic investments in America because of our pro-growth Republican policies. Just look at what Senator Dave McCormick was able to do with his successful summit in Pennsylvania this month. We have seen the story, we have seen the headlines, and we have seen the reports in terms of what Dave McCormick was able to do in Pennsylvania with energy. He brought members of industry together to focus on energy innovation. They made commitments to invest more than \$90 billion right here in America. That is good for