

Her publications as archivist include the "Records Management Handbook for United States Senators and Their Archival Repositories" and the "Records Management Handbook for United States Senate Committees"—key references for Senate staffers working to ensure that the documents of democracy are preserved for the long term.

I want to thank Karen for her decades of work and her dedication to the Senate. Not everyone can say that he or she has played a key role in safeguarding the history of an American institution, but Karen can, and I wish her the very best in her well-deserved retirement.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT FLIGHT ACCIDENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this morning, our hearts go out to everyone impacted by the horrible, heart-breaking incident at Reagan Washington National Airport last night. I have been briefed on the horrific incident at DCA and have continued to monitor the situation. My heart goes out to everyone who was impacted by this incident. I am praying for the victims, their families, and our brave first responders as we monitor the situation.

But I have to tell you, I just watched President Trump's news conference. Listen, it is one thing for internet pundits to spew off conspiracies; it is another for the President of the United States to throw out idle speculation as bodies are still being recovered and families are still being notified. It just turns your stomach.

In the meantime, we are keeping the families and loved ones of the victims in our prayers, and we are keeping our brave first responders in our prayers as well.

NOMINATION OF RUSSELL VOUGHT

Mr. President, now on OMB and Russell Vought, this week, the American people saw firsthand just how destructive the impact of Project 2025 could be. In the blink of an eye, President Trump ordered OMB to illegally freeze trillions of dollars in Federal funding for families and kids, for hospitals and fire stations and police departments, impacting almost every single community in the United States.

Thankfully, the American people fought back and made their voices heard. Trump was forced to retreat, rescinding his disastrous memo—for now. But make no mistake, as long as Russell Vought is Donald Trump's pick for

OMB Director, the American people can bet he will try again to illegally seize the funding for their communities.

Now that Donald Trump rescinded the OMB order, he should rescind the nomination of Russell Vought as well. The chaos of this week should be a lesson to President Trump: Following Russell Vought and Project 2025 is a loser. It is a loser, of course, for the American people, but it is also a loser for Donald Trump, as this week has shown.

Given the unlawful behavior of OMB this week, Senate Democrats will not move to advance Mr. Vought's nomination any further until he gives the American people more answers.

If Mr. Vought, the chief architect of Project 2025, intends to continue breaking the law at OMB and harming our communities in so many ways, he should return to the committee and explain himself. He should answer for the mess he launched upon the American people this week. The committee's hearing was held last week, before the funding freeze was issued. The American people need new answers. And if he is doing the right thing and communicating what he is going to do in this powerful position at OMB, he should return to the committee for another hearing.

Mr. Vought tried to hide the truth during the hearing last week, but the truth of his plan was on full display this week.

The future of our hospitals and schools and food banks should not be in the hands of an ideologue who substitutes the rule of law for his own ultraright ideology. This is bad faith, and Mr. Vought needs to return to the committee to give the American people some honest answers—or at least some comprehension as to what the hell happened this week and what is the plan for moving forward.

Until then, I stand with Ranking Member MERKLEY and my colleagues when they said that they should do nothing to advance Mr. Vought and not go to the markup today which is, at best, premature. I support them fully in what they have done.

STATE AND LOCAL TAXES

Mr. President, SALT. This week, House Republicans released their laundry list of priorities for this Congress. What Republicans included on the list is truly awful—draconian cuts, tax breaks for the ultra-, ultrarich, and the same ultraright ideology that most Americans, even most Republicans, reject.

But what is equally bad is what House Republicans left off their list. SALT, state and local tax, and that is what I want to focus on today. Republicans are saying that they don't have any plans to get SALT done this year, to get rid of the cap this year, and that should leave a bad taste in everyone's mouth, especially for New Yorkers in higher cost areas like Hudson Valley and Long Island, especially for police

officers and firefighters and teachers who work hard, who are middle class, and get clobbered by SALT and the cap on the deduction.

With the absence of SALT from House Republicans' priority list, it is clear that the upcoming budget will be nothing more than a Trump budget grab. By omitting any SALT fix, this is what Republicans are telling hard-working Americans in New York, in Massachusetts, in California, and so many other States. It is saying: We don't give a hoot about lowering your costs. In fact, let's raise them. Imagine that. Imagine that.

Any Republican, particularly those in New York or New Jersey, who claim to care about helping our teachers, our firefighters, our police officers, our construction workers save money should be outraged. They should be blasting this proposal and calling on House Republicans to eliminate the SALT cap. But so far, all we hear is crickets or sort of shoulder shrugs of reassurance. Oh, it will work out. My question is: For who and when?

These Republicans from New York should listen to their constituents because New York taxpayers and other taxpayers across the country are sick and tired of unnecessary costs by the unfair SALT cap. People who live in the Hudson Valley, people who live on Long Island, and in many other places are severely affected by the cap.

And we should hear from our Republican colleagues that they won't vote for any tax package unless it eliminates the cap, which is a dagger at the heart of New York.

I will continue to do everything I can, first, to remove the entire SALT cap tax; and, second, to never let a new proposal that, for the first time, imposes SALT cap on businesses, small and large, to be put into effect.

CABINET NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, OK. On the Patel and Gabbard nominations, today the Judiciary Committee, Senate Judiciary, is hearing testimony from Kash Patel, President Trump's nominee for FBI Director. The hearing is still ongoing, but it is already very clear Mr. Patel is not remotely prepared to serve as FBI Director.

Mr. Patel has failed to answer how his confirmation as one of the Nation's chief law enforcement officers will make Americans safer. He has failed to convince Americans that he will serve their interest and not Donald Trump's. It is no wonder that so many of Patel's colleagues from the first Trump administration have spoken out against him, saying he has ludicrous ideas and "virtually no experience . . . to serve at the highest level of the world's [most prominent] law enforcement agency."

No one who has a long history of spreading lies about the FBI and smearing the public servants who work there like Mr. Patel should be the FBI Director.

And, today, another nominee that defies belief and imagination, the Senate

Intelligence Committee is also hearing testimony from President Trump's nominee for Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard. If confirmed, Ms. Gabbard would be a walking liability to our intelligence community and our national security. She has a long and troubled history of spreading falsities and sympathizing with the likes of Vladimir Putin and Bashar al-Assad.

And given her history, it is not unreasonable to ask if Ms. Gabbard would use the DNI to push misinformation for political ends.

Our intelligence Agencies are a place where truth and facts must prevail, or we become much less prepared in terms of protecting American security. And yet someone who is so immune to a fact-based analysis of things, who makes up conspiracy theories left and right, is the last person who should be the Director of National Intelligence. It would be antithetical to elevate somebody who is known to make things up out of thin air like Ms. GABBARD to the highest levels of our intelligence community which is, as I said, fact-based.

TRIBUTE TO KAREN PAUL

Mr. President, finally, today the Senate says farewell to a longtime and wonderful colleague, the first ever archivist in Congress, Karen Paul. Before Karen joined the Senate in 1982, the Senate didn't have an archival records program at all. She arrived in a moment of chaos and confusion and concern about how the record of the works Senators do would be preserved. Karen saw this blank canvas as an opportunity, a chance to develop the standards for how records and papers preserved here in Congress are done.

For over four decades, she has been at the heart of nearly every effort to establish and modernize the policies and procedures related to congressional records.

I don't know if she is here. Is she?

I note the word "trailblazer" and "archivist" are probably rarely used in the same sentence, let alone to describe the same person, but that is Karen to a tee.

We thank her for her service in the Senate and the Nation and wish her and her family the very best in their next chapter.

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

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

REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT FLIGHT ACCIDENT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, first let me start that all of us here in the Senate and around the country, having seen what we saw that happened last night at Reagan National Airport, it was tragic. It was heartbreaking.

There are many questions that need to be answered in the coming days, but

today all of America is praying—praying for the 64 individuals on the American Airlines flight that lost their lives, praying for the 3 soldiers aboard the Army helicopter, praying for the families of the victims. It truly is a heartbreaking moment for our country.

We are so grateful for the bravery of the first responders. We thank the Metropolitan Airport Authority's Fire Department, the Washington DC Fire Department, the Metropolitan Police Department, the U.S. Park Police, and all the more than 300 first responders who are assisting in the recovery efforts.

CABINET NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, I also want to talk today about prices, about energy, and about our economy. The message is simple: Unleashing American energy will help lower prices. It is essential. Energy is often called the master resource. By controlling our own energy production, we are able to control our own future.

Not long ago, America was the leading producer of energy in the entire world. President Trump had made America energy independent, and he did that for the first time in decades.

Well, that changed in 4 short years under the prior administration. We went from a Nation of energy dominance to a Nation of energy dependence. The previous administration went on a regulatory rampage. It was disastrous for our economy. The results were painfully high prices—prices for food, prices for fuel, all sky-high.

Suddenly, Washington was attacking energy producers and energy workers in States like my home State of Wyoming. Our Nation found itself turning to adversaries for our energy.

Let me ask a simple question: Does anyone—anyone—believe that we are better off relying on dictators in China or Russia or Venezuela or Iran to help power our country? Does anyone believe we are better off when energy prices are sky-high? Were we, as a Nation, more prosperous?

Well, the answer to all of these is no.

For the past 4 years the previous administration treated energy as an enemy. Governor Doug Burgum and Chris Wright will treat American energy as the God-given blessing that it is. It is available, affordable, and reliable. American energy is an asset. Energy is the source of our strength in America. It is a solution to help bring down painfully high prices. America is an energy super power, and we should act like it.

Working together, Governor Burgum and Chris Wright will be a powerhouse energy team for our Nation.

Governor Burgum grew up in Arthur, ND, population 400. He studied business at Stanford University. He built Great Plains, a software company, and he built it into a global public company.

As Governor of North Dakota for the last 8 years, he drove his State's transformation into an energy and technology leader. Instead of blocking en-

ergy production, he invited and incentivized companies to operate in North Dakota, and it worked. In turn, his State produced more and more energy. So there was more and more success.

In his Senate hearing, Governor Burgum explained the success. He said:

We live in a time of tremendous abundance, and we can access that abundance by prioritizing innovation over regulation.

He is right on.

I questioned Governor Burgum in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

In Wyoming, we have more than 600,000 acres of Federal land that were previously approved for energy production, but for the last 4 years, the previous administration never offered those acres for lease. It also blocked using that land even though energy explorers purchased the right to that land over 4 years ago, before they even came into office.

I am so glad that Governor Burgum has committed to quickly addressing this issue. He is going to take the commonsense action of unlocking our lands for oil and for gas production, and we need the energy. We need all of it in this country.

Chris Wright is also an innovative leader. He studied nuclear fusion at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He then worked in solar and geothermal engineering. At Liberty Energy, a fracking company he founded and where he is currently the CEO, his creative, data-driven leadership kick-started the American fracking revolution.

What I like most about Mr. Wright is that he tells the truth about energy production. He acknowledges that climate change is real. He knows more American energy is the solution, not the problem. His energy realism is welcomed news.

When I spoke with Mr. Wright in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, we agreed about the need for an "all of the above" energy strategy, including nuclear energy. Mr. Wright agrees with me that it is not in America's best interest to be dependent on imported uranium from Russia. Congress passed my legislation to ban the import of Russian uranium into the United States. The Secretary of Energy has the discretion to provide waivers to companies that import that uranium, and I am pleased that Mr. Wright has committed to using these waivers only in very limited and extreme circumstances. He also pledged to work with all of us to end uranium imports from communist China. These are very positive steps that need to be taken for rebuilding America's nuclear energy supply.

Both Governor Burgum and Mr. Wright are optimistic about America's energy future, and they should be. I strongly support them. They are America's energy all-stars. They have laid out an inspiring vision for lowering