

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

prices, for building up our energy supply, and for dealing with our adversaries from a position of strength.

Later today, the Senate will vote to confirm Governor Burgum as Secretary of the Interior. Chris Wright's confirmation will follow soon thereafter. They deserve strong support here in the Senate. With their leadership, the age of climate alarmism is over. The golden age of American energy dominance is here.

Additionally, I just heard the minority leader talk about the hearing today for Kash Patel as the nominee to be the Director of the FBI. The minority leader said he hadn't heard anything at the hearing that adequately addressed what Mr. Patel would do to make America safer. I would just refer to what was written today by Mr. Patel in the Wall Street Journal when he wrote an article that said: "How I'll Rebuild Public Trust in the FBI."

That will make America safer.

He wrote:

If confirmed, I will remain focused on the FBI's core mission and not involve the bureau in prosecutorial decisions. Determining whether someone should be charged with a crime is the responsibility of the Justice Department, not the FBI. If confirmed, I will guide the agency in investigating criminals and safeguarding the homeland.

To me, that answers the question.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Senator from Alabama.

CABINET NOMINATIONS

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I would like to start by thanking Leader THUNE for pushing to confirm all of President Trump's Cabinet nominees so far. President Trump is on the verge of having his full team. We have confirmed Pete Hegseth, Kristi Noem, Scott Bessent, and many others who are doing an outstanding job implementing President Trump's America-first agenda. But there are more critical nominees that President Trump still needs confirmed. This includes Robert Kennedy, Kash Patel, and Tulsi Gabbard, along with a few others.

I have gotten a chance to meet with each of these nominees and have been very impressed. They are all outstanding choices and should be confirmed to President Trump's Cabinet as soon as possible.

First, I would like to express my complete and total support for Robert F. Kennedy's nomination to be the next Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Last November, we saw millions of Americans—especially young Americans—flock to the MAGA movement after Bobby Kennedy endorsed Presi-

dent Trump. Both my sons, 28 and 30, Tucker and Troy, were huge fans of RFK, and I know there are just millions of young people who RFK has brought to the table and into the fold, opening their eyes towards something they had never really been involved in, and that is the health of their generation and all generations across the country. As we know, Bobby started the Make America Healthy Again movement, known MAHA, which eventually joined forces with President Trump. MAHA is not just a political slogan; it is a movement that has swept our Nation.

For the first time, important issues like the effectiveness of vaccines, the dangers of prescription medicines, and the chemicals in our food and household products are part of our national political disclosure, as they should be. And it is all because of the work of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

You know, before entering the arena, Bobby spent four decades in environmental law and in healthcare policy, specializing in issues like water pollution, vaccines, and food safety—four decades. He is an accomplished attorney who attended Harvard, the London School of Economics, and the University of Virginia. And he has authored multiple best-selling books that I would suggest anybody that is concerned about the health of our country should read.

Throughout his career, he has committed to discovering the truth about what is causing the chronic disease epidemic in America today, and his Presidential campaign exposed the fact that we have a serious—a very serious—public health crisis facing our country today and in the future. For example, in his hearing yesterday, Bobby Kennedy laid out that over 70 percent of adults and one-third of our children are overweight or obese. The rate of diabetes is 10 times more prominent today than it was in 1960. Cancer among our young people is rising by 1 or 2 percent every year. Autoimmune diseases, neurodevelopmental disorders, and addiction cases are hugely on the rise. Depression and anxiety rates are absolutely through the roof.

Meanwhile, more Americans are relying on pharmaceutical drugs than ever before. I saw that in my former life of being a coach of players. Years ago, very few of them were on any kind of drug, such as Adderall or Ritalin, for attention deficit. But in the last few years, there was a huge uptick in prescription drugs for many, many young people across the country. These findings are alarming, and they should and they had better shock all of us.

Thank God, Bobby has dedicated his life to getting to the bottom of what is causing these trends. As he did in his hearing yesterday, Bobby is an expert on the health issues facing our country and has the facts, the data, and the evidence to prove it, and he will bring his commitment to evidence-based science transparency to our national health Agencies.

And it is simple. Americans want access to all the facts so they can decide what is best for themselves and for their families. Bobby has committed to giving Americans the information that they need to be informed and make informed decisions.

Recently, I have seen the mainstream media and some politicians attempt to smear Bobby Kennedy as anti-vax, anti-industry, or an enemy of food producers. All of this couldn't be further from the truth. It is just a political attack.

We have even heard from prominent Republicans, like former Vice President Mike Pence, who is running ads on TV criticizing Bobby Kennedy for not being sufficiently pro-life. Bobby addressed this himself yesterday. He believes every abortion is a tragedy, and he will work with President Trump to implement his pro-life policies.

These attacks are nothing more than dishonest attempts by the DC establishment to tank his nomination. We have seen that in the last couple of weeks on all nominees.

Sure, Bobby Kennedy may not be the typical pick for the job, but the American people don't want a typical pick.

The one we picked 4 years ago for President Biden was a lawyer living in California and very seldom came to Washington, DC. He worked from home. We got nothing done in Health and Human Services.

They gave us a mandate in November—77 million people—to deliver President Trump's agenda, and that includes making America healthy again.

As far as I am concerned, Bobby is not part of being the healthcare establishment class. That is a really good thing. We don't need that. Look at where it has gotten us.

The pharmaceutical industry and the industrial food complex won't be running the show anymore when Bobby Kennedy is confirmed. Instead, he will restore our health Agencies to the gold standard of specific research and explore historic healthcare alternatives as part of our efforts to end chronic disease epidemics across this country.

Ultimately, this will lower costs for Americans and ease the burden on our entire healthcare system, which is being overrun by all of the conditions that we have popping up today. With the many public health crises we are facing as a country, we have no time to waste.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting Bobby for HHS Secretary and help President Trump make America healthy again.

For our next nominee, I would like to turn to Kash Patel. He is on the Hill today going through his confirmation hearing.

Kash is President Trump's pick to be the FBI Director, who testified in front of the Senate all morning long. Kash is an excellent choice, and he has my full support.

It is clear to the American people that the culture at the top of our top