

It is disturbing to say, but the chickens are coming home to roost on Donald Trump's destructive trade war and the American people are paying the price.

You sow chaos, Donald Trump, you reap chaos.

And that is what the President is finding out this morning. A quarter million fewer jobs is a significant revision and a flashing red light. Donald Trump's chaotic tariffs are already bleeding our economy of good-paying jobs. In fact, aside from the pandemic, this job revision is the largest since 1979. In other words, the revision saying we lost jobs is more than any since 1979 except for the period of COVID. That is what tariff whiplash looks like.

Businesses—small, large, medium—always need stability. But businesses are waving around their arms in the dark without a clue of what Donald Trump is going to do next. And we now have clear evidence that it is stunting hiring and growth. If Donald Trump's tariffs have created this much trouble just 4 months after Liberation Day, imagine the trouble Americans will have 8 months after Liberation Day, a year after Liberation Day, when the effects of tariffs go further and more deeply into the economy.

Remember, this jobs report comes a day after we learned inflation accelerated over the last month, and it comes 2 days after we learned growth slowed down in the first half of this year and that business investment is down—down—3 percent.

But what is Donald Trump doing about all this? As bad as his previous trade policies have been, today he is doubling down on his awful trade policies. Last night, he imposed a slew of tariffs on 68 countries around the world, including some of our most important trading partners.

Again, if the effects of Liberation Day have been this bad just in 4 months, imagine the pain and harm Americans will feel 8 months, 12 months from now with these new tariffs just imposed yesterday.

Well, if this is what Liberation Day was supposed to look like, then God help us. Hiring is down; prices are ticking up; families are paying more than \$2,400 a year because of these tariffs—\$2,400 is a lot of money, even to families way into the middle class.

Businesses have no clue of what Donald Trump is doing next. Worse, we still don't have any idea what Donald Trump is actually agreeing to with partners like Japan, the European Union, and South Korea.

Typical of this administration, this President mistells the truth. He lies more than any other President we have seen. He just makes it up as he goes along and then changes, retracts—we know all about those cartoons, that he never did cartoons. That happens over and over again. And somehow too many of the American people forgive him for baldly lying.

Look at these trade breakthroughs. Look at the pattern. Donald Trump

hails the agreement as a major breakthrough, announces huge amounts of money coming into the United States. Then the next day, the people he has made the deals with, the countries he made the deals with retract. They say that didn't happen. He just makes it up.

But Donald Trump, you pay the price for making it up because businesses don't know what you are doing and so they cut back. Business investment was down 3 percent in the last quarter. Before Donald Trump was President—let's not forget, he is trying to sell a 15-percent tariff as a great thing. Before Donald Trump was President, these countries had tariffs in the 1 percent to 2 percent range. Now it is 15 percent.

Do you know what that is? That is a price hike on American families. Asking Americans to bear the brunt of 15-percent tariffs is no sane person's definition of victory.

Instead of cutting off five of your fingers, we are only cutting off three. Don't you want to congratulate us? That is the kind of thing Donald Trump says.

We have no clue what America is actually getting in return. In fact, we don't even know what these deals are because Trump lies about them. There is a pattern here. As I said, there is a pattern. One day, Donald Trump comes out bragging that his so-called deals are somehow major victories. But the next day, reality sets in, and it is abundantly clear when you look at the details, he lied, exaggerated, hyped what was in the deals. One day, he said Japan is going to invest \$500 billion in the United States. You know what Japan says the next day? It is, at most, 2 percent of that \$500 billion—2 percent.

How does this guy get away with it?

But he doesn't get away with it because the chaos he creates, the mistrust he creates hurts businesses and hurts the country.

So we want to know—the administration refuses to be transparent, refuses to provide the details, and that is very bad for the American people and for the economy. So, today, my colleagues and I are urging transparency from the administration. We are writing Secretary Bessent, Secretary Lutnick, and Ambassador Greer to immediately come clean with answers to a number of important questions about Donald Trump's trade deal.

First of all, how are any of these deals going to be actually verified and enforced? How do we know these investments Donald Trump has bragged about are going to take place because it seems the countries who are making the deals have a different story than what Trump tells? Second, what system or mechanism exists to track any of this information? What industries will see the benefit? What kind of investments are we talking about? Have they thought these things through or does this pop up in Donald Trump's

head, and it then comes out of his mouth?

Finally—especially crucially—how do we know that these investments, even if they happen, are going to benefit the public and not just benefit the businesses and industries owned by Donald Trump and his friends?

We have seen over and over again that what they do in the White House doesn't benefit the American people but benefits the people who work in the White House, their cronies, and Donald Trump, himself, who is gaining millions and millions of dollars from his Presidency by taking advantage of the laws they passed. No other President would do it. Ronald Reagan would turn over in his grave if he saw what Trump was doing to benefit himself as President. It causes Americans to just lose faith in democracy.

It has been 4 months since Donald Trump's so-called Liberation Day. By now, we have enough evidence to show these chaotic tariffs are inflicting real damage to the economy. We would be foolish to think doubling down is somehow going to make it better, but that is what Trump did yesterday.

Donald Trump needs to reverse course because the only deal he has actually struck is a raw deal for American families. The only deal Donald Trump has struck is a raw deal for American families, consumers, and businesses. Today's jobs report is the latest warning sign that this tariff chaos must end.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mr. President, on the Smithsonian Institution and impeachment, we all know that Donald Trump loves to rewrite and erase parts of history he doesn't like.

Yesterday, though, we saw a shameful new low. Yesterday, we learned that Donald Trump quietly forced the Smithsonian to remove him from the impeachment exhibit at the American History Museum. You can't make this up. This is a man rewriting history or thinks he can rewrite history. He can't, but he thinks he can. He is censoring the American History Museum.

It is Orwellian—downright Orwellian—and it is something you would see in an authoritarian regime. It is something the head of North Korea would do, not America. Quite frankly, it is sad; it is pathetic; but it is beyond that. Donald Trump is so egotistical, so angry that he is the only President in American history to have been impeached twice that he wants to try and change the past, change the truth, and trade history for propaganda.

But Donald Trump, you can't change history. You can't avoid the truth. History will haunt you. You are the only President to be impeached twice. You can run, but you cannot hide from the judgment of history.

Here is my message to the President: No matter what exhibits you try to distort, the American people will never forget that you were impeached, not once but twice.

The American people want Donald Trump to focus on lowering their costs, not rewriting history about his impeachments; not building an extravagant ballroom at the White House, raising \$200 million from his cronies for it—who knows what they get in return; not covering up the Epstein scandal. But, as always, Donald Trump's priorities are way off from what the American people need and want.

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.

#### WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Nesvik nomination.

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

#### NOMINATIONS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to shine a spotlight on what the Democrats are doing in terms of unprecedented obstruction—obstruction to the Senate nominating process.

The nomination process has been ground to a halt as a result of the Democrats. Today, like every other day this Congress, Senate Republicans will burn hours of floor time on votes that for every other President of the United States would have taken only seconds until now.

President Trump is the only President in modern history not to have a single nominee confirmed by voice vote or unanimous consent—not a single one. Even the most routine nominations are being filibustered. Positions that usually just fly through the Senate by voice vote or unanimous consent are now being treated and taken as political hostages.

This isn't normal. This is petty partisan politics at its worst. And it is petty.

Let me tell you the facts that the Senate Democrats don't want the American people to hear. George Herbert Walker Bush, President of the United States, 98 percent of his nominees were confirmed by a voice vote or unanimous consent. Bill Clinton, President of the United States, 98 percent of his nominees were confirmed by voice vote or unanimous consent. George W. Bush, President of the United States, 90 percent of his nominations were confirmed by voice vote or unanimous consent. President Barack Obama, 90 percent of his nominees were confirmed by voice vote or unanimous consent. Then President Trump took office in his first term and Democrats' obstruction began. The numbers dropped from 90 percent under President Obama to 65 percent under President Trump in that first term. Remember, today it is zero.

It was 65 percent in his first term. Even Joe Biden, a President the Republicans strongly opposed, had 57 percent of his nominations confirmed by voice vote or unanimous consent.

Republicans did not sabotage each and every Biden Ambassador and every Biden Under Secretary simply out of spite. No. Over half were confirmed by unanimous consent. Today, Democrats are obstructing simply for the sake of obstruction. Senate Democrats continue to stonewall the Senate nomination process and to slow-walk every single one of President Trump's nominees.

So I have a copy of today's list. Here we are. I have the Executive Calendar for Friday, August 1, 2025, with totally routine nominees for positions who sailed through the Senate for every other President. Yet Senate Democrats have demanded cloture votes for every single one.

I would ask a single Democrat in this Chamber, without mentioning President Trump's name, tell me why, on the schedule today, the legal advisor for Advocacy for the Small Business Administration is somehow controversial.

Last night, right here, when we were doing cloture votes, a Democrat came in. One of the Republican Senators, after that Democrat voted no, said: Who did we vote on?

The Democrat Senator said: I don't know.

Well, what is wrong with him?

I don't know.

What is the position?

I don't know.

Well, you just voted no on him. Why was that?

Oh.

He was nominated by President Trump. That was the only reason that that nominee got a negative vote from the Democrat.

That is what is happening. That is what we are seeing here, and that is what the Democrats continue to do. Why should this nominee be held up in filibuster? The Democrats can't tell you why. They have no idea why, other than that the nomination was made by President Trump. This isn't about the qualifications of the nominees. This isn't about questioning their resumes or their past histories. This is just resisting President Trump.

Automatic Democrat obstruction doesn't make our communities safer. It doesn't make our country stronger. It doesn't make families and small businesses more prosperous. It just wastes time and weakens America.

Well, despite the Democrats' wall of obstruction, Senate Republicans are continuing to press forward. We have, so far, confirmed 120 nominees since President Trump's second term began. We are doing it one at a time, 1 day at a time, 1 vote at a time, 1 nominee at a time. The good news is we have confirmed twice as many positions and nominees in President Trump's second term compared to his first term.

Let's be clear: Republicans are not backing down. We are going to continue to confirm President Trump's nominees the easy way if we can, the hard way if we must. The American people elected President Trump and the Senate Republicans to get America back on track. After 4 years of high prices and open borders under the Democrats, they expect this President to have his team in place, and that is what the Senate Republicans will continue to do.

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

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

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the Senator from Wyoming was just on the floor and spoke about the schedule of business here in the U.S. Senate, particularly the question of nominations. Senator BARRASSO is my friend. We disagree on a lot of political things, but we respect one another, and I certainly respect him.

There is an important chapter that he just left out of recounting the history of the nominations process in the Senate. I call it the JD VANCE chapter.

Listen to this: When Donald Trump was in his first term, he nominated over 90 U.S. attorneys. Every one of them passed with a voice vote, with the possible exception of one in Massachusetts. Every one of these passed with a voice vote. In other words, we didn't require any rollcalls. We filled these vacancies for U.S. attorneys.

Then came Joe Biden. Under the Biden Presidency, a decision was made by one Senator, JD VANCE of the State of Ohio. He came along and said: I no longer will allow you—it is my right as a Senator to stop it. I will no longer allow you to have a nominee for U.S. attorney go through without a rollcall.

That sounds like a very minor request, but with potentially over 90 of these rollcalls, we found ourselves backed up in a situation where we couldn't approve any U.S. attorneys. We didn't have the time on the calendar to do it because of the JD VANCE requirement.

I came to this floor—this very spot—eight times, pleading with then-Senator JD VANCE: Please, don't do this. We have comity and understanding on U.S. attorneys. We did under Trump in his first term, and we certainly did in the early stages of Biden, but now you are requiring rollcall votes on each of the U.S. attorneys, and it is going to create an obstacle to progress on the floor of the Senate. Eight times I came to the floor, asking unanimous consent for Senator VANCE to withdraw this demand. He refused each time.

Then he went off to run for Vice President, and while he was gone, running for Vice President, I came to the