

The assistant bill 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, what is a very bad leader? What does a bad leader do when they get bad news? Shoot the messenger. That is just what happened with the head of the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Today, we got some of the worst labor numbers that we have gotten in a long time. The economy added only a paltry 73,000 jobs last month. But that wasn't the worst of it. We learned the economy actually added less than 20,000 jobs each in May and June following 2 months of Donald Trump's "Liberation Day." That is 250,000 fewer jobs than we thought.

So, of course, that is very bad news for the economy, but what does Donald Trump do? Instead of trying to fix the economy, he shoots the messenger. The woman he fired, the head of the Bureau of Labor Statistics passed, this Senate 88 to 8. Vice President VANCE voted for her. And now, fire her.

Well, Donald Trump, firing her isn't going to relieve the chaos that you have created with your ramshackle tariff regime. Shooting the messenger isn't going to make the jobs that we are losing in healthcare and clean energy because of your so-called Big Beautiful Bill come back. None of this will change. The American people will still suffer in exactly the same way that they did an hour ago before you fired the head of the BLS.

You know, Donald Trump sometimes admires dictators. He admires them. Well, he sometimes acts just like them. It is classic Donald Trump: When he gets the news he doesn't like, he shoots the messenger.

Now, there is a word for this when the Soviet Union does it, when the dictators of the Russians did it. They called it "pripiski." It meant "Fire the messenger. Don't change your policies."

As long as Donald Trump keeps firing messengers who bring him truth—he hates truth when he doesn't agree with it—as long as he does that, this economy will not improve, inflation and costs to the American people will not go away, and new jobs will not return to this country. He ought to start governing like a leader, not like someone who imitates authoritarian leaders.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

REMEMBERING LLOYD WAYNE COPPEDGE

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about two important topics. One is the loss of a remarkable South Carolinian. Mr. Lloyd Wayne Coppedge of Myrtle Beach went to be with the Lord on July 19 at the young, spry age of 80. Lloyd

Coppedge was a great American, a great friend of mine. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and a dedicated friend.

He had a business career marked by both heart and integrity. Lloyd purchased Wolverine Brass in Myrtle Beach, where he not only led the company to success but also created a work culture built on compassion and respect.

His legacy lives in the lives he has touched, whose lives are better because of him. Lloyd was a giant of a man, and he will be missed by me and thousands and thousands of South Carolinians.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL

Mr. President, I also wanted to talk about the success of the One Big Beautiful Bill. We are nearly at the 1-month mark, and the benefits to South Carolinians and Americans are remarkable.

Let me just talk first for a few minutes about the success of historic firsts in the bill. The Trump accounts for every child is fantastic, but I wanted to spend a minute or two on the success of the tax credits for school choice embedded in that One Big Beautiful Bill.

I will tell you, as a kid growing up in poverty, I went to four elementary schools by the fourth grade, so I know firsthand the importance of making sure that every single child in South Carolina and I dare say every single child in America deserves a quality education. I don't care whether that is at a private school, public school, home school, charter school—I want every child to have a choice in education.

I believe the old motto is correct: When a parent has a choice, their child has the best chance at success in this Nation because education is the closest thing to magic in America.

We can also celebrate the continuation of opportunity zones made permanent in that Big Beautiful Bill. I will say, without any question, in 2017, in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, we passed, for the first time, my opportunity zone legislation. And as a result, over the last nearly 10 years—less than 10 years—we have seen over \$90 billion invested in high-poverty communities across our Nation. At home in South Carolina, we have 135 designated areas. And in those areas, we have seen over 18,000 jobs created, almost 4,000 housing units since its inception, and all of that nationwide with less than a 5-percent gentrification.

We also wanted to target education in a different way, making sure that we would allow coaches and athletic staff to claim out-of-pocket, job-related expenses on their taxes just like we do for classroom teachers. So many American educators, too many coaches have to reach into their own pockets to make sure their students and their athletes have what it takes, not only on the field but in the classrooms and even at home.

There are benefits in the Big Beautiful Bill for every single South Carolinian. Whether it is job creation, lower taxes, or stronger communities, the

One Big Beautiful Bill brings home so many resources for thousands of South Carolinians.

I think about the campaign promises on the trail. Those same promises are producing for hard-working, middle-class Americans. I think about my good friend who has a professional career waiting as a waitress. Jackie States is her name. She benefits tremendously from lowering taxes on tips. This is a campaign promise that President Trump made on the trail, and we delivered for the American people by reducing—nearly eliminating—tax on tips for so many people in the service industry.

I was walking through the airport, and officers of the law—thank God for the law enforcement officers across this country who dedicate their lives to keeping all of us safe. But I will never forget the comments made just a week or so ago by a few officers who are now more excited than ever to work overtime because President Trump has made it easier to keep more of their overtime wages in their pockets and not in Uncle Sam's coffers. This is good news for public safety, and it is great news for law enforcement families.

Our President Trump went a step further when he said he wanted to reduce the taxes on our senior citizens living every day, some of them, paycheck to paycheck. So what did our President do? He lowered taxes on Social Security, making it easier for our senior citizens on fixed incomes to make those very difficult ends meet. This is a big win for our seniors.

I could also go on about the expanding tax credits for beauty salons and barber shops, the legislation that I wrote that helps more than a million small businesses—many of them minority businesses and rural businesses that desperately needed the assistance.

I could go on about the importance of President Trump's work on securing our border, finishing the border wall with the extra resources, or talk about stopping the flow of fentanyl coming through our southern border or ports of entry.

I could spend some time being thankful that we have Border Patrol agents that will be better resourced with better tools, restoring law and order in our Nation because of that One Big Beautiful Bill.

I could also talk about how our military is better equipped with the tools of the future—not the 21st century but the 22nd century—how, through the funding of the Golden Dome or improving the quality of life for our men and women in uniform by having more resources deployed to make sure that our military remains the finest fighting force on the planet or how we modernized our military or "drill, baby, drill," the ability to find more resources in the energy sector.

As energy production goes up, prices come down, not just prices at the pump but prices at the grocery store. Whatever it takes to bring to the American

people by energy, those prices go down, affordability goes up.

I can go on and on and on about the One Big Beautiful Bill, but time does not allow me to continue. I will just close with this: I am thankful that we live in a country where our elected officials that run for office can be held responsible and accountable for the promises they make. We, the American people, can see the promises they keep.

And this American, I will concede, this American, I will say, is very happy that that One Big Beautiful Bill helps working-class Americans, helps women working and earning tips, helps men in barber shops. I can just tell you, this is one happy American because of the benefits coming out of that One Big Beautiful Bill. And I hope more Americans hear about the details of that fabulous piece of legislation that you worked so hard on and that I worked so hard on because the American people can celebrate 4 more years of commonsense, higher wages, lower taxes, and lower prices.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 3944

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am about to propound a unanimous consent request that will allow this body to proceed with three appropriations bills that were approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee with overwhelming bipartisan support.

I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, and at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 121, H.R. 3944, and the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn; that during the consideration of H.R. 3944, the Collins substitute amendment, No. 3411, which is the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs appropriations bill and the Agriculture appropriations bill, be considered an Appropriations Committee amendment for purposes of rule XVI, with no other rule XVI points of order waived by this agreement; that H.R. 3944, as engrossed by the House of Representatives on June 25, 2025, and H.R. 4121, as reported by the House Appropriations Committee on June 25, 2025, serve as the basis for defense of germaneness under rule XVI for any floor amendments and that it be in order for floor amendments to amend the substitute in more than one place; that the following managers' package of amendments be considered and agreed to en bloc to No. 3411: The Paul amendment No. 3070, Shaheen-Grassley No. 3430, Smith No. 3025, Hirono No. 3409, Rounds No. 3081, Rounds No. 3082, Budd-Shaheen No. 3416, Hawley No. 3080, Rosen-Cortez Masto No. 3208, Cornyn No. 3073, Hirono No. 3110, Shaheen No. 3431, Klobuchar No. 3418, Crapo-Rosen No. 3163, Blumenthal No. 3433, Booker-Tuberville No. 3200, Moran No. 3190, Crapo-Merkley No. 3220; and that upon

adoption of the managers' package, the only amendments in order be the following amendments, if offered, to No. 3411; that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate vote in relation to these amendments: No. 1, Merkley amendment No. 3114, Blumenthal No. 3432, Murphy No. 3447, Van Hollen No. 3115, Duckworth No. 3466, Tuberville No. 3413, Kennedy No. 3414, Kennedy No. 3415, Scott No. 3113, Johnson No. 3428; further, upon disposition of the amendments listed above, the Senate vote on adoption of the substitute amendment No. 3411, as amended, with a 60-affirmative vote threshold required for adoption; that the bill as amended, if amended, be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended, with a 60-vote affirmative threshold required for passage; finally, notwithstanding passage of H.R. 3944, as amended, if amended, it be in order to consider amendment No. 3412, this is the Legislative Branch appropriations text; the Senate vote on adoption of amendment No. 3412, and if adopted, H.R. 3944 be further amended and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, where applicable, the amendments be called up as modified to reflect that they are drafted to the substitute amendment No. 3411.

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to each vote in relation to H.R. 3944.

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I just want to thank our colleagues on both sides of the aisle. It has taken a great deal of work, good faith, and negotiation to get to this point.

I particularly want to thank the vice chair of the Appropriations Committee, Senator MURRAY, for her leadership in this area. I want to thank all of these subcommittee leaders on both sides of the aisle and the members of the subcommittee for really doing an exceptional job in drafting the bills that I hope we will pass and send on to the House for negotiation in conference.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am so glad that we are moving on our first appropriations package of fiscal year 2026. It is a package of bipartisan funding bills that invest in our communities and reject damaging cuts from Trump and House Republicans.

I want to acknowledge the chair, my partner, Senator from Maine, who has worked really hard to get these bills to

this point. And I appreciate the tremendous amount of effort she and the subcommittee chairs have put into this, as well as our ranking members.

If you think like I do that we cannot have another slush fund CR that gives away more power to Trump; and if you think like I do that we need to reject a budget that was so plainly written by political appointees who do not care or know what our States need, instead make the investments we all know are best for the people we represent, then let me be clear: Bills like this are the best chance we have to get the best outcome for folks back home.

In this package, we fully fund the WIC program and reject Trump's efforts to eliminate international food aid programs, rural housing support, and food boxes that feed hundreds of thousands of seniors. We reject Trump's call to cut FDA funding by hundreds of millions and slash ag research funding for universities across the country. And we make investments to support our servicemembers and their families and to keep our promises to veterans—funding VA healthcare, fighting for veteran homelessness, and more.

Crucially, we don't just have investments in this bill, but also new provisions to hold this and any administration accountable to deliver for our veterans—requiring VA maintains staffing levels to meet their own goals so we can stop the damage being caused by Trump's mass firing of our VA workers; requiring briefings and information so Congress—all of us—can actually get answers on how Trump's new discriminatory policies are affecting our veterans; and withholding some funding until Congress knows these programs are actually working, like for the Electronic Health Record program, where some research will be held until VA certifies new systems are safe and are effective for our veterans.

In addition to this package, we will vote on a Leg Branch bill that rejects Trump's efforts to gut the Government Accountability Office; invests in the Congressional Budget Office and the Congressional Research Service to keep government accountable to laws and facts; and in security for the Capitol and for our Members, something I know everyone here is concerned about.

We have written these bills under challenging circumstances. Russ Vought is illegally hiding the apportionments data we all need to have to do our jobs. And we all recognize he has been illegally blocking funding we all passed for our communities, at least until the courts step in or public pressure forces his hand.

If you are as mad as I am about an unelected bureaucrat like Russ Vought trying to overrule Congress and our constitutional role, you should support these bills.

This is—this is—how we exercise the power of the purse and make sure the voices of our constituents are heard