

continued partnership on these important efforts as I work as a senior member of the Senate Finance Committee, and she continues her incredible volunteering at home.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). The Democratic leader.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I would like to begin by reiterating where Democrats stand on government funding.

Our position remains this: We want to keep the government open by engaging in bipartisan negotiation where we can address some of the grave harms Donald Trump has caused to our healthcare system and help Americans with the cost of living.

We haven't seen that to date. Republicans, so far, have refused to have any conversations about issues we have clearly outlined—healthcare, most of all.

Speaker JOHNSON said recently he hopes Democrats won't politicize the process, but Speaker JOHNSON has already done that by refusing multiple requests to sit down and talk and doing his own CR without consultation, without any inclusion of what the Democratic leader in the House or I are asking for—total, total partisan proposal. And so is President Trump.

When Donald Trump said on FOX News that Republicans “don't even bother” dealing with Democrats, then he is responsible for making a shutdown more likely. This afternoon, he doubled down again, posting online that Republicans should go at it alone in their partisan CR, instead of engaging with Democrats to keep the government open.

Now to pass a CR in the Senate, as everyone knows, requires votes from both sides. If one side refuses to negotiate, they are the ones causing the shutdown. Because, again, Democrats are happy to negotiate. We want to have a conversation with Donald Trump and Republicans about things we have been talking about for months, like healthcare, Medicaid, and the cost of living. And the American people know this.

They know that if Donald Trump refuses to talk—even to talk—with Democrats, it will be him shutting things down. They know he needs to negotiate. They know he needs to compromise. He is not a dictator, much as he thinks he would like to be. He needs to work with Democrats if he doesn't want to get blamed for shutting the government down.

And if Republicans follow Donald Trump's orders not to even bother dealing with Democrats, they, too, will be putting our country on a path to a shutdown.

And let me finish with this: I heard my friend the Republican leader come to the floor and cherry-pick some of my old quotes about keeping the government open with a CR. He zeroed in on the phrase “clean extension.”

Well, the Republican leader glossed over the key point. I said in the past that Republican colleagues have to “work with the Democrats in a bipartisan way” to extend government funding.

I said they actually have to work with us, and it has to be bipartisan. That is not happening right now. It was happening then in 2023. That is the difference, and the majority leader conveniently forgets that extremely important point.

And it is not happening right now because Donald Trump is shutting down—shutting down—any hopes of negotiation. Leader THUNE wants to wonder what has changed? A lot. A lot. Including Donald Trump's actions, which have dramatically harmed this country and undermined the appropriations process.

He has canceled congressionally appropriated funding. He is redirecting and stealing funds. Russell Vought says that he wants to see the appropriations process less bipartisan, and we know he is running the show. And now he says that Republicans shouldn't even bother to deal with Democrats. Meanwhile, the cost of people's healthcare has gone way up. Rural hospitals are already closing because of this Big Beautiful Bill. Job reports continue to show warning signs. Trump's tariffs are a mess, and the economy is headed in the wrong direction.

That is all because of the choices Donald Trump has made as President. We need to have a negotiation, which is what we are asking for right now—bipartisan, the only way you can get this done—and that is what we talked about back then as well.

NOMINATION OF STEPHEN MIRAN

Madam President, today the Senate will vote on Donald Trump's nominee for the Federal Reserve Board: Stephen Miran. Miran's nomination is bad news for every American who is suffering from Donald Trump's disastrous economic agenda.

He serves as chairman of the CEA, the Council of Economic Advisors, and is the chief architect of so many policies of this administration's failed economics that are raising prices for families.

Miran was heavily involved in the rollout of Trump's tariffs, and he even claimed that “there continues to be no evidence whatsoever of any tariff-induced inflation.” Ask the average American family.

What kind of bubble is Miran living in? Companies have explicitly cited tariffs for the reasons prices are going up. That sure sounds like pretty significant evidence to me.

No evidence of inflation. Tell that to grocery shoppers, to people buying coffee, to shoppers at Walmart and Amazon. Sticker shock has been the story of the summer for many Americans, all because of those awful tariffs.

Miran will be nothing more than Donald Trump's mouthpiece at the Fed. He has no independence. No sym-

pathy for American families and businesses suffering from his policies and a fundamental misunderstanding of how the American economy works.

I strongly oppose Miran's nomination.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

REMEMBERING CHARLIE KIRK

Mr. MORENO. Madam President, as you know, like I do, we had a terrible tragedy that occurred last week. I don't think that it is quite understood by people who Charlie's life didn't affect and what that meant to all of us.

Not only is it that a 31-year-old died—which, of course, would be tragic to anybody—but to see him publicly assassinated, gunned down, where his death is captured on video after video after video—you look at that and you think: Where is the humanity?

I think one of the things that is most important to understand is that there was a private person named Charlie Kirk. He wasn't just the leader of an incredible movement that we now are familiar with, Turning Point USA. He was a son. He was a father. He was a husband. I got to know Charlie about 13 years ago. I was in my office in Cleveland, OH, and my receptionist said to me: There is a young man to see you. He wants to talk about an idea he has.

In my business, typically, I am seeing people who are interested in purchasing automobiles from one of my dealerships.

I said: Who is this guy? My office went right to the showroom so I said: Come into my office.

Charlie Kirk shared with me a vision that he had. He had built out the entire concept of what we know as Turning Point USA in his head. He visualized hundreds of chapters in every major college and university throughout America where students could actually debate ideas. It wasn't about everybody had to have one point of view or a different point of view, but they could actually discuss an idea in a collaborative way, not with hatred, not with animosity but rather the idea that people would listen to each other.

This is a time over a decade ago where we didn't understand the extent of the indoctrination that was going on in our colleges and universities. But I was so impressed by that young man's vision, by his conviction, by his energy, by his charm that I happily wrote him what he thought was a big check. By today's dollars, it was definitely not. I referred a few friends to him. He was very excited. We stayed in touch during the years.

Lo and behold, he builds this incredible organization, and I ended up running for Senate. He activated that

group and helped me tremendously in Ohio. If you look at what he did—I am certain for you, Madam President, the same way for me—the way young people really took to his message. They want to have a voice in the future of our country. That is what Charlie wanted for them.

I will tell you, it is extremely sad and quite disappointing to see some of the reactions online—people actively cheering that a 31-year-old husband, father, and son would die; that the pejoratives used against him comparing Nazism or fascism—a stain on human history that shouldn't be compared quite frankly with anything. I think it is fair to say that Hitler and Nazis should have a special dark place in history and not be compared to anyone or anything because you see when you do that, you are inviting people, crazy people, to take actions into their own hands like what we saw tragically in Utah.

I hope that what comes out of what we just went through is that colleges and universities all over America heed to Charlie's call. Let's have our American colleges and universities be the one place—the one place—where freedom of speech is respected, where people can debate ideas, and even if we don't agree—for example, you and I may not agree that Ohio State University is the best college football team in America. You may have a different point of view. It is wrong. I know it is wrong, but, sadly, you may have a different idea. But we can be friends. We can have a dinner together. We don't have to be mad at each other because we have different points of views.

Of course, I am being flippant because there are more difficult conversations for us to have. It should never go to hatred. Look, I don't want to make this remark about partisan politics. But let me say to my Democratic colleagues: When you say we are at war; you must do anything you can to make certain that we protect our democracy, that is a bat signal. It is crazy. When a Democratic leader says that President Trump is Hitler or a Nazi—bat signal to crazy people. When the media, for example, in my State, the Cincinnati Enquirer said after President Trump was almost assassinated, much like Charlie was, that he “brought it on himself,” this sends a message to crazy people. When the Cleveland Plain Dealer, the largest newspaper in Ohio, analogizes JD VANCE, our great Vice President—your friend, my friend, whom we know personally—and says he is a Nazi sympathizer, that he reminds the editor of what it must have been like to be with Nazis in the thirties, it is a bat signal to crazy people. It puts us all in danger.

That is unacceptable. We can have vigorous debates. In fact, I would say we should have more vigorous debates on the floor. In fact, when we are doing confirmations to nominees, I welcome Democrats to come out here and defend

their position as to why they are not going to confirm somebody. For 81 to 100-plus nominees, they don't bother to debate. For the ones they do, it is 2 minutes of debate.

Let's have more debate. Let's do it respectfully, from the point of view that this is what I believe; tell me what your beliefs are, not just yelling at the Presiding Officer when nobody else is on the floor. That is not a debate. That is trying to get a 30-second clip on social media.

That is not what this institution should represent. This should be, like those college campuses, a free exchange of ideas. Maybe sometimes—but I find it hard to believe—my colleagues make a point that would maybe change the minds on this side. It would be great to see that. I hope that when we make points, that they listen. That is what Charlie wanted.

What I would like to do now is ask unanimous consent that the Senate observe a moment of silence in remembrance of Charlie Kirk, Erika Kirk, and her two young children who had to ask their mom when their dad was going to come home and understand we had a great tragedy.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF  
CHARLIE KIRK

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent for a moment of silence.

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

(Moment of Silence.)

Mr. MORENO. 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.

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

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

NOMINATION OF STEPHEN MIRAN

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, I rise today to oppose the nomination of Dr. Stephen Miran to serve on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors.

President Trump has run a monthslong campaign to turn the Fed into his personal piggy bank in an attempt to escape accountability for his own economic failures. He has tried to intimidate and threaten to fire Federal Chair Jerome Powell. And when that didn't work, he illegally attempted to fire Fed Governor Lisa Cook so that he could seize control of the Board. Both of those failed. So now he is attempting to install his own puppet on the Board with Dr. Miran, someone who intends to keep his White House job as the President's chief economic adviser open while serving at the Fed, setting up an unprecedented and unacceptable conflict of interest that will only ultimately cause more pain for American families.

Don't just take it from me. Take it from one of the President's closest advisers, Larry Kudlow, who said:

The bottom line is, President Trump's going to take the Fed over, as he should.

And Senate Republicans are facilitating it, including by jamming through this nomination at warp speed so that Dr. Miran can be sworn in literally hours before the Fed's meeting tomorrow morning to determine interest rates.

The facts are clear: Donald Trump promised that he would lower costs, in his words, “on day one.” Those were his words. He said them over and over as he ran for President: He would lower costs on day one. He didn't. Now the cost of groceries: up. The cost of utility bills: up. The cost of housing: up. The cost of healthcare: up. The cost of back-to-school shoes and backpacks and baby strollers: up and up and up.

He also promised a golden age for American workers. Again, he has failed. Job growth is down. The economy lost jobs in June. Unemployment is up. People are staying unemployed longer, and worker confidence in the labor market is at its lowest since the end of the great financial crisis.

Donald Trump can reverse course on his failing economic agenda. He could start helping families instead of turning everything over to his billionaire buddies. Instead, Trump wants to point the finger at everyone else and make the Federal Reserve his scapegoat.

If Republicans let Trump interfere with the Federal Reserve, American families and businesses will pay the price in terms of higher costs going forward. Here is why: Congress created an independent Fed to keep politicians from making shortsighted economic decisions that would benefit the politicians politically. Sometimes the Fed is called on to make really hard decisions about when to raise interest rates when fighting inflation, and the whole world needs to know that the Fed is making these decisions based on data rather than being influenced by politicians. If the Fed loses its credibility, businesses and consumers will stop trusting the Fed to control inflation, and they will start acting like inflation is here to stay, and that will make prices soar.

This is not a hypothetical. When autocrats take over their central banks, inflation follows. Türkiye hit nearly 80-percent inflation. Argentina reached nearly 200-percent inflation. Even here in America, back when Richard Nixon pressured the Fed to serve his political needs instead of American families', prices went up. If Trump can control the Fed, the cost of Americans' credit cards and car loans and home mortgages and student loans and more will all be higher.

So today's vote is not just about Dr. Miran; it is a question of whether the Senate allows President Trump to succeed in this next phase of his very public, very obvious, monthslong campaign to stack the Fed with loyalists who will prioritize Trump's personal whims over America's long-term economic health.

And throughout this confirmation process, Dr. Miran has spectacularly