

through the NDAA, our National Defense Authorization Act, and we could be passing our appropriations bills through regular order.

But what we know is this is something that the minority leader has been working on for weeks. It is what he wanted. He thinks that it is going to benefit the Democratic Members of this Chamber.

I just really think he is sorely mistaken on this because the measure—the continuing resolution in front of us—is a clean CR, which means it is funding that is going to continue at levels where they were, for a period of about 7 weeks, while we finish exercising our due diligence and passing the appropriations bills.

Now, this is something that—the shutdown didn't have to happen, but as I said, it is something that appears to have been in the works and something that was really desired by those on the left.

We have heard, of course, that the minority leader is not wanting to face opposition from the left there in New York, and because of that, of course, what we are seeing is that our Nation's business has come to a halt.

Last night and then again today, all but three of the Members of the Democratic conference voted against a stopgap funding measure, our clean CR, that would have kept this government running through November 21. Keeping the spending at current levels, this measure would have given us the time we need to be working on these appropriations bills. It would have kept us moving forward and kept us from wasting time.

One of the things I think is so important is that shutdowns are expensive, and this is something that ends up costing us money every time we do it. And, of course, we have quite a bit of national debt.

Now, when we talk about completing our appropriations bills and setting our spending limits for the year and fulfilling that budget document, that portion—we have our budget document. Then we move to our appropriations bills.

Well, Senator COLLINS of Maine, who has led the Appropriations Committee, has done an outstanding job working with Republicans and Democrats on that committee, building out this appropriations process, making certain that bills moved out of the Appropriations Committee and that they are making their way to the floor.

One of the things that is so interesting is that 8 of the 12 bills that came out of the Appropriations Committee came out with broad bipartisan support. So if you have got measures that are coming out with broad bipartisan support, why would you not move them to the floor? Why would you not want to finish out this appropriations process?

And, of course, it should have been finished by September 30. It was not finished by then. So we are hopeful

that by November 21, this process can be complete and that we will be moving from a Biden budget to a Trump and Republican budget, which, by the way, is what the American people voted for when they gave a mandate to President Donald Trump on November 5.

Now, I mentioned the 12 bills, and 8 of the 12 have come out with bipartisan support. Three of those bills—our Agriculture, our Leg Branch, and our MILCON-VA—have already passed off the floor, and they did so with wide bipartisan votes. This is something that, yes, indeed—yes, indeed—we need to make certain that we continue to push these bills. Now, by passing these approps bills, we are ensuring that we get onto the budget the American people voted for.

Well, this is not what our colleagues across the aisle are saying they wanted. They don't want the clean CR. They are not wanting to move forward on these bills. Instead, their measure for keeping the government open and running is holding government basically hostage, if you will, for \$1.5 trillion in additional spending—\$1.5 trillion.

Our national debt is north of \$37 trillion. It is climbing. And, of course, adding another \$1.5 trillion for a few weeks is really irresponsible. In this, they are basically trying to undo what we did—the steps and the progress that we made when we did the Big Beautiful Bill, which is truly—truly—a bill for hard-working Americans.

So I would encourage my colleagues across the aisle: It is time to come to the table. It is time to pass the stopgap measure, the clean CR. And I would remind my friends that since last year, they have voted for these funding levels five times.

So let's come together. Let's get this passed. Let's get back on track to pass these appropriations bills. Let's keep the Federal Government open and working.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHMITT). Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last night, the Republicans—despite controlling the White House and Congress—shut the government down to avoid addressing their self-inflicted healthcare crisis.

It is another blow to ordinary Americans across this country. In July, Republicans used their majority to jam through Congress the President's so-called "Big, Beautiful Bill." That cruel bill cuts nearly \$1 trillion from Medicaid and will rip health insurance away from 10 million Americans. And for what? So the wealthiest Americans can continue to line their pockets.

Now, Republicans seem poised to allow premiums and out-of-pocket costs to skyrocket. That is the Republican agenda: Billionaires win. You lose. If Republicans allow the Affordable Care Act enhanced tax credits to expire, more than 20 million Americans will see their premiums go up and 4 million more will lose coverage altogether. Republicans seem to be fine with ballooning the national debt for tax cuts for the rich, but they draw the line at extending healthcare to millions of American families.

And already, the President is playing the blame game. In the Oval Office yesterday, the President said, "Well, Democrats want to shut it down."

We don't. And the American people see right through this. They know Republicans control government and refuse to negotiate. When lines are longer at the airport, when farmers cannot receive their loans, or service-members miss a paycheck, that is the fault of Republicans entirely.

Yesterday, too, the President said, "A lot of good can come from government shutdowns, we can get rid of a lot of things." The President is wrong. No good can come from a shutdown. That is why Democrats continue to ask Republicans to negotiate and save healthcare for the American people.

Yesterday, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing entitled: "Blue City Chaos and Tragedy: How the Trump Administration is Addressing the Human Cost of Soft On Crime Policies." Unfortunately, as the title makes clear, this hearing was a partisan attempt to politicize what should be a bipartisan issue: how best to protect the safety of all American communities.

Every American deserves to feel safe, no matter where they live. We must reject these acts of political theater and look at the facts. Over the last two decades, the murder rate in my home State of Illinois has been lower than the murder rates in Missouri, Louisiana, and Alabama—all States led by Republicans. Ignoring these facts and the tangible success of the crime prevention programs working in cities like Chicago does nothing to make our Nation safer.

Unfortunately, President Trump has done everything he can to undermine efforts that have been effective at

fighting crime, like canceling hundreds of millions of dollars in Federal grants. These critical programs, which have long been supported by members on both sides of the aisle, include: \$72 million in funding for State and local law enforcement; \$158 million in gun violence prevention grants to cities like New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Washington, DC, and Baltimore; and \$169 million of community safety funding authorized by the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.

If President Trump were serious about combating crime, he would restore these funds for ongoing joint Federal, State, and local law enforcement operations and crime prevention efforts. Instead, President Trump is deploying and threatening to deploy the National Guard to stroke his ego while falsely claiming he is restoring so-called order in Chicago, Portland, Memphis, and elsewhere. For months now, President Trump has been looking for any excuse to send troops into American communities to flex his power over cities and States he doesn't like.

Just this week, after months of threatening to deploy the Guard to Chicago, the Department of Homeland Security announced that 100 National Guard troops would be deployed there, despite the objections of Governor Pritzker and Mayor Johnson. Let's be clear: This deployment is a dangerous, illegal, and unconstitutional abuse of power by this President.

If anyone has any doubts about just how dangerous this is, they should listen to the speech Trump delivered yesterday to our most senior military leaders. He told them that, "America is under invasion from within," and he joked that he told Secretary Hegseth they "should use some of these dangerous cities as training grounds for our military." Trump went on to say that this "invasion from within" is "more difficult in many ways because they don't wear uniforms."

This is not about reducing crime or fixing our immigration system. This is about targeting those the President deems enemies—including those who exercise their First Amendment right to protest, question his authority when he flouts the law, or come to this country seeking a better life.

Instead of keeping our communities safe, Federal agents in camouflage are masquerading as military in the streets of Chicago, targeting immigrants with no criminal convictions. They are arresting families at Millenium Park. They are reportedly locking families with toddlers in rooms at O'Hare Airport. My constituents do not feel safer. They are afraid to take their children to school, to report crimes, or to go to church.

In Illinois, we have always known that immigrants are our neighbors. And as our neighbors, they deserve better from us than the terror and chaos of this administration. I hope that moving forward, we can come together

to discuss and support bipartisan solutions to keep all American communities safe.

REMEMBERING H. EDWARD QUICK

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I rise to recognize the life and career of H. Edward Quick. Ed was a proud Kansan who served our Nation so well that in the 1970s and '80s, he was often referred to as "Missouri's third senator." Throughout his life and his work, Ed demonstrated a deep, unabashed love of our democratic process. He was the embodiment of humility, generosity, and hard work. Ed passed away in August after a life well-lived and in the company of his loving family. I offer this remembrance so that the official RECORD of our body may reflect his many contributions to the public good and to the best traditions of the Senate.

Ed's Senate tenure spanned 11 Congresses—the 91st through 101st—and five administrations. He helped Tom Eagleton win his first Senatorial campaign and followed him to DC in 1969, leaving behind a near-finished PhD to join the Eagleton Senate staff.

In his new job, Ed reported to my father Doug Bennet, who served as Senator Eagleton's first chief of staff, a role then known as administrative assistant. Ed generously credited my father as a mentor and as an example that served him well when he held that same position for Senator Eagleton in the late 1970s and 1980s.

Ed was a resolute Democrat and intensely loyal to Senator Eagleton, but he was also respected and trusted across the aisle. Jack Danforth was Missouri's Republican Senator during most of Ed's tenure, and both he and his staff felt comfortable seeking Ed's counsel. Perhaps it is indicative of how closely the two offices worked together that, during Ed's tenure, Senators Eagleton and Danforth started a bipartisan summer softball team called the "Missouri Compromise."

Ed was an insightful student of politics and a gifted practitioner of the art of the possible. He had a keen sense of the political winds and a feel for finding the common ground that drove agreements and produced results. He honed his skills relentlessly. Senate coworkers soon grew accustomed to seeing Ed loping through the halls of Dirksen in the early morning hours, a 6-inch stack of Missouri newspapers under his arm. When Tom Eagleton walked into Ed's office and asked, "What's going on in Dunklin County?", Ed knew. He then would reduce that pile of newsprint to clippings he sent by mail to his network of contacts across Washington and Missouri.

When Senator Eagleton retired in 1987, Ed joined the staff of Arkansas Senator David Pryor, where he worked with chief of staff Don Harrell to expand Senator Pryor's committee chairmanships and responsibilities as Senate Democratic Caucus chair. In 1990,

Ed was nominated by President Bush, with Senator Pryor's support, to serve as a Commissioner of the U.S. Postal Rate Commission. To no one's surprise, the Senate unanimously approved his appointment to the Commission, where Ed served until his retirement in 2005.

Upon retiring, Ed returned to his Kansas roots: the city of Lawrence and the University of Kansas, where he maintained a full calendar of classes, community service, and charitable work. He continued to be a voracious reader of newspapers, and his wide network of friends, family, and former colleagues would regularly find the resulting clips in their inboxes.

This institution and this country owe much to Ed Quick and public servants like him, who freely give their time, friendship, and loyalty to causes greater than themselves. We extend our deepest condolences to the entire Quick family and to all those who knew and loved Bob, as we did.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE INDUCTION OF WILLIAM "POPEYE" WRIGHT INTO THE NATIONAL GUARD HALL OF FAME

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of an extraordinary Arkansan—William "Popeye" Wright of Paris—who will be posthumously inducted into the Arkansas National Guard Hall of Fame this October.

Known to many simply as "Popeye," Wright was the epitome of American service and sacrifice. His military career spanned nearly five decades and three major conflicts: World War II, the Korean war and Operation Desert Storm. His determination and bravery were evident from the moment he left school in 1944 to enlist in the Army. Serving in the European theater he was captured behind enemy lines during what is believed to be the Battle of the Bulge. In a remarkable act of courage, he escaped under gunfire despite sustaining shrapnel wounds—a testament to his grit and resilience.

For his valor, Wright received three Bronze Stars, three Purple Hearts, and France's Croix de Guerre. After the war, he returned to Arkansas and completed his education at Arkansas Tech University and continued his service as commander of the Paris National Guard Armory. His unit was activated for Korea in 1951, and decades later, he returned to Active Duty, deploying to the Persian Gulf in 1992.

Beyond uniform, Mr. Wright remained deeply devoted to his community. He served with Paris's fire department, mentored generations of young Arkansans, and was a familiar face at local football games. His quiet leadership and steadfast character left a lasting imprint on the lives he touched and the community he served.

In recognition of his service, the street outside the Paris National