

I was thinking, though, I have been telling a lot of staff around here and everybody else: I apologize for us not getting our work done.

I think a lot of people don't realize how many people around here haven't been paid for 41 days. Do you know who they are? Everybody you can see in this room and every one of your staff members and everybody else who has been doing the hard work, showing up.

I was thinking yesterday, with all the cars in the driveway, those young people that are coming in to pick up their Members and take them back to their apartments, condos, wherever they live here—those kids are doing that on a weekend and not getting paid either.

I also think that getting out of the shutdown and getting the tens of millions of people that are hanging in the lurch across the country—it is just a good thing.

It is a shame we got here, but I want to thank the Members on both sides of the aisle that have finally decided that we need to do our work here, pass a continuing resolution, pass actual regular order bills, and prove this place can work.

The work is not done. We have about 90 days now to fix the other part that we couldn't get agreement on. Let's make sure we start doing the work now so that every Capitol Police officer, every Sergeant at Arms, every Senate staff, and all the people down on the dais who are working extra long hours actually get paid for the hard work they do.

On behalf of the other Members, I thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, during the course of tonight's debate, we will be voting on whether to table an item in the amendment lineup in order to submit an amendment that would ban pocket rescissions.

Well, that is a fancy name. What does a pocket rescission mean? It means the President can steal the power of the purse from Congress, which is assigned to Congress in the Constitution, by submitting a proposal to undo spending for a program in the last 45 days of the fiscal year.

And then, because under our rules there is 45 days to consider it, as a grace period, even though Congress never votes affirmatively in support of this proposal, the clock runs out and the funding for the program dies. It is kind of like the clock running out on midnight on Cinderella's stagecoach, and, suddenly, it is a pumpkin.

In this case, it is the funding for some key program in healthcare, in housing, or in education. Or maybe it is an investment in infrastructure. Maybe it is something that creates good-paying jobs. Maybe it is the research that keeps our economy humming far into the future. Maybe it is energy policy. But one person—the President—says he doesn't like that

program and decides to kill it by submitting a proposal to kill it in the last 45 days, and the clock runs out before Congress can vote. And then, even without Congress voting, the program dies.

This is an outright violation of the power of the purse assigned in the Constitution to Congress—to us. So we have a bipartisan responsibility to defend our congressional power—our congressional spending power.

Let's consider the difference between a democracy and an authoritarian government. In a democracy, you have folks who are elected from every corner of the country. They come together with their different life experiences. They come together with their different insights. They come together understanding that the needs in one part of the country are different than another. And they create spending programs and spending levels appropriate to address the challenges in every corner of the Nation. That is called a democracy.

Well, what about an authoritarian government? What does that look like? That is one person, a Chief Executive, who issues fiats and kills programs, and says things like: I am ending that grant program because it is not in alignment with my priorities. I am killing that program because it is not in alignment with my priorities.

That is an authoritarian government, and that is what a "pocket recession" is—an authoritarian killing programs when the Constitution gives that power to Congress, not the Executive.

So later on, I will ask all of us to stand up and defend our Constitution. I do hope that Members on both sides of the aisle will actually proceed to give that defense to the vision of a democracy, rather than granting authoritarian power to an authoritarian tyrant named Donald Trump.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the remarks of Senators MURRAY and COLLINS, the postcloture time be expired, and the Senate vote on adoption of the motion to proceed; further, if agreed to, and following recognition of the majority leader, it be in order for Senators BALDWIN, SANDERS, SLOTKIN, and MERKLEY to speak for up to 5 minutes each, prior to a Baldwin motion to table and a Merkley motion to table, if made; and following the disposition of that vote, if it is not agreed to, Senator PAUL be recognized to speak for up to 9 minutes, and the Senate then vote in relation to the Paul amendment No. 3941; further, that following disposition of the Paul amendment, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Collins substitute amendment No. 3937; and if cloture is invoked, all postcloture time be expired, the pend-

ing amendments other than the Collins substitute be withdrawn, and the Senate vote on adoption of the Collins substitute amendment; and if adopted, the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on H.R. 5371, as amended; finally, if cloture is invoked, all postcloture time be expired, the bill, as amended, be read the third time, and the Senate vote on passage of H.R. 5371, as amended; and if passed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and the mandatory quorum calls be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, like so many people in this country, I am so outraged that Republicans have refused to lift a finger to save so many families from the skyrocketing healthcare premiums all year long. I voted no on last night's vote because I do believe we need to address healthcare costs before we move forward.

There is simply no time left to kick the can down the road when it comes to saving the ACA tax credits. We are already 10 days into enrollment. Yet we have Republicans saying: Why should we stop premiums from skyrocketing when we never really wanted lower premiums in the first place?

We have Republicans talking about going back to the good old days of high-risk pools, which meant people with cancer could not get health insurance. We have Speaker JOHNSON bragging that Republicans strengthened healthcare by making the biggest cut to Medicaid in history. That is like saying you strengthened a ship by throwing the passengers overboard.

And when Democrats offered a clean 1-year extension of the tax credits, which is truly the most straightforward and commonsense thing we can do for people facing gigantic premium hikes this year, Republicans said: Never ever, ever, ever.

They called it "political terrorism." And to really put a fine point on it, they fired up the old bad ideas machine to try and find a new way to repeal the ACA. Republicans have gone from saying nothing about healthcare costs all year long to saying later, later, later, even after we are over a week into open enrollment and wasting every bit of time we had for real negotiations.

Then, incredibly, Republicans started saying: Let's scrap the Affordable Care Act altogether. Let's end protections for preexisting conditions. By refusing to work with Democrats on a solution before open enrollment started, Republicans have already pushed millions of Americans off the healthcare cliff.

The only question was—and is—could we throw them a rope back up? Could Congress get something done and stem some of the bleeding Republicans already caused? Yes. By passing a clean

1-year extension of the ACA tax credits.

But right away, Republicans said they wouldn't even consider it. I believe that we should keep pressing on that fight as time is of the essence, and the clock has nearly run out. The reality is, there is a point where it will be too late to make a meaningful difference on the healthcare premiums, and I don't believe there is some magical date set in stone, but that is coming up pretty fast.

It is pretty much now or never, and Republicans are essentially saying never to stopping the worst of the MAGA healthcare hike.

Now, here is the important thing: This fight is not over, far from it, because I and many of us have no intention of letting Republicans off the hook. No one should doubt for a single second who is to blame for the skyrocketing healthcare costs: Republicans and Republicans alone.

When families across America are paying the price that they will see for Republican inaction every month, I will make sure every single one of them remembers the same Republicans who did everything in their power to make tax breaks for billionaires permanent refused to even negotiate one year of healthcare tax credits for working families at a tiny fraction of the cost.

Unfortunately, here we are, and it seems clear Republicans are feeling no urgency to act on healthcare before it is too late, even a quick simple extension to help families.

But, I want to be clear, while I cannot vote for this overall deal today, not when we still need to address healthcare, I do absolutely support the appropriations bills and CR that we will move forward which do take meaningful steps to reject drastic cuts and extreme policies pushed by both Trump and House Republicans and make sure that Congress—not Trump—is in charge of Federal spending.

It is important that Democrats were at the table on the CR and our first three funding bills and used our spot at that table to fight for hard-working families in America. The difference is clear and a sharp contrast between the bills that were released yesterday and the bills written by the House Republicans and the budget put forward by President Trump.

In our bills, Democrats were able to secure real wins for folks back home and fight off painful, senseless cuts and extreme policy.

On the CR, we made sure to protect Federal workers, both by ensuring they receive backpay they are owed, something that has been debated extensively, and by reversing the punitive RIFs done by this administration during the administration and blocking them from doing more this year.

In the Agriculture appropriations bill, while Trump and House Republicans fought to make steep cuts to WIC that would have seriously cut ben-

efits for millions of women and kids, we successfully fought together to keep WIC fully funded. This bill ensures that 7 million moms and babies will get the full nutrition benefits they rely on.

We also sustained key investments in our rural communities because we rejected a Trump funding takeover. We protected housing support in rural communities and vital agricultural research happening across the country, including in my home State of Washington at WSU.

We stopped Trump from blowing a truly massive hole in FDA's budget which would have slowed drug approvals and seriously endangered our food supply.

None of this is inconsequential. All of this matters. And I want to thank Chair HOEVEN and Ranking Member SHAHEEN for all of their good work on that vital bill to our communities. In the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bills, we were able to secure funding to make sure we were taking care of our veterans and our servicemembers and ensure that this administration keeps its promises to our veterans by ensuring staffing of critical services such as the crisis hotline centers.

I want to thank Chair BOOZMAN and Ranking Member OSSOFF for all their good work on this critical bill to our veterans and our servicemembers.

And, lastly, on the Legislative Branch bill, which is the smallest bill, it covers the important needs of this institution, from protecting GAO and CBO, the Architect of the Capitol, our Capitol Police, and other Agencies that actually make this place work, to make sure our offices have what they need to take care of our constituents and keep our campus safe.

We should all appreciate the hard work that went into completing this bill. I want to thank Chair MULLIN and Ranking Member HEINRICH for all of their work on that important bill and the critical matters within to every Senator in this Chamber.

Now, obviously, those are not the bills I would have written on my own. I have concerns we were not able to address in these bills, and Republicans were not open to some of them. But I still want to do more when it comes to delivering critical investments for communities in our country, and I will, as always, keep pushing my colleagues every day.

But we did secure real wins for folks back home when Democrats and Republicans were able to sit down at the table together on funding, and they are immeasurably better than Trump and Vought holding the pen—which is what the slush fund CR that we have been operating on this year allowed.

I am proud for what we have been able to negotiate to protect key programs our families and communities rely on and protect our authority as lawmakers who are here to be a voice for our constituents. I want to emphasize that I really appreciate the work

of my counterpart, the senior Senator from Maine SUSAN COLLINS, who has done incredible work on all these bills.

I want to thank our subcommittee chairs and ranking members and all of our staff who have worked hard to put these bills together, and I want to make clear I deeply appreciate the partnership of my colleagues on the Senate Appropriations Committee who have all worked in good faith during these very difficult times and these very difficult negotiations.

No matter what, these bills need to get done and our staff put in late nights and our chairs and ranking members held countless conversations to compromise and work toward solutions.

I hope to continue building on that progress and showing what it does look like when we come together and put families before politics.

I look forward to getting our next minibus up on the floor to move multiple needed bills along that we have marked up in the committee and give those to conference, and I hope we can be on that package as soon as possible.

I look forward to working with the Senator from Maine and working to get those final bills completed, so they, too, can be conferenced with the House as soon as possible.

And I want to thank all of our committee members and staffs for their incredible work on these critical bills. We have a lot of work ahead, and I know we can get there.

Passing full-year funding bills helps to ensure that Congress—not Trump or Russ Vought—decides how taxpayer dollars are spent. We should never turn the keys over to Trump and his Cabinet Secretaries, allowing them to make unilateral cuts and shift funding around however they please.

Every day, they prove in a new way how critical it is that Congress assert its authority and rein in their chaos, and I will continue to work to do that on the Appropriations Committee.

But I also need to continue fighting to stop the MAGA healthcare hike for as long as there is still time left on this clock to fix this. The reality is, there is a point where it will be too late to make a meaningful difference, but until we reach that point of no return, we do have to fight tooth and nail to force Republicans to actually work with us on that issue. And because, in this package, Republicans have still refused to address the healthcare crisis families are facing right now, a crisis that gets worse and harder to fix every single day, I will be voting no.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, this is the 41st day of an entirely unnecessary government shutdown; a shutdown that never should have occurred; a shutdown that has caused tremendous harm to the American people, to our national security, to our entire country; a shutdown that has resulted in Federal employees being furloughed, laid

off, or forced to work without compensation; a shutdown that is causing enormous uncertainty and stress for families that rely upon the SNAP program for the nutrition that they need; a shutdown that is causing families to wonder: Are they going to be able to fly to see the grandparents on Thanksgiving? A shutdown that never should have occurred.

We finally have the ability tonight to end this shutdown. We have put forth, the Appropriations Committee, working in a bipartisan way with Members on both sides of the aisle and in both Chambers, a package of bills that includes a continuing resolution that will reopen government immediately once it is passed by this Senate, the House, and signed into law by the President.

It is legislation that due to incredibly good work by Senators JEANNE SHAHEEN, TIM KAINE, KATIE BRITT, the White House, and many of us, will ensure that those Federal employees who have been furloughed or laid off or forced to work without pay will receive their backpay, will be recalled to their jobs if they were laid off as a result of this shutdown.

That will make a huge difference to these Federal employees who have worked so hard to serve the people of our Nation.

This package of bills also includes three—three—yearlong appropriations bills that were passed by overwhelming margins, bipartisan margins, more than 80 votes in each case, by the Members of this Senate way back on August 1.

These bills are the Agriculture bill, the Agriculture-FDA bill—Senator BOOZMAN chairs that subcommittee. It includes funding for the SNAP program; for the Women, Infants, and Children nutrition program, known as WIC; for our farmers; for rural development; for our rural communities throughout this country. It is a very important bill—a bill that will take away the worry that families who are low income and seniors who are low income and rely upon the SNAP program or the WIC Program are feeling today about whether the funding is going to be there. That concern goes away with the passage of this full-year appropriations bill that extends until the end of September of next year.

A second bill in this package is the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs bill. That subcommittee is chaired—I have actually mixed up the two subcommittees. Agriculture is chaired by Senator HOEVEN, and Military Construction-VA is chaired by Senator BOOZMAN. They are both extraordinary chairmen who work in a bipartisan manner with their ranking minority members and with their House counterparts.

Think about it. Tomorrow is Veterans Day. Wouldn't it be wonderful if tonight the Senate passes the bill that provides yearlong funding through the end of this fiscal year, to September 30

of next year, for our VA? What a way to tell our veterans how much we value their sacrifice and their service—a debt to them that we can never fully repay. It is so important to get that bill through.

Military construction projects—what a difference that makes to our troops all over the world. There are two that matter a great deal to me in the State of Maine, one that will help the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, which I worked on with my fellow Senator from Maine and our two Senators from New Hampshire, and one that will benefit the Air National Guard Base in Bangor, ME, where I live. I am so proud of that base. It does more refuelings than any base on the east coast during wartime, and it is extraordinarily skillful and filled with patriots. They will be taken care of.

The third bill is the Legislative Branch bill. That bill answers concerns that a lot of our Members have about security in this increasingly polarized and difficult environment in which we live. But that is not all, and I want to correct any misimpression that has been given by some who have spoken today on the other side of the aisle.

The Senate majority leader has given a public commitment that he will bring to the Senate floor bills that extend the Affordable Care Act, which, unfortunately, has turned out to be anything but affordable. But it will extend the premium tax credits that allow our lower income and middle-income families to afford their much needed health insurance. In many cases, these are individuals who are self-employed, so they do not get health insurance through the workplace, or they are the employees of small businesses that are unable to provide health insurance, particularly in this time when we are seeing skyrocketing premiums.

So, as I have said from the beginning, I support an extension of the ACA tax credits, but they need reform. It is wrong that wealthy families qualify for taxpayer-subsidized tax credits for their health insurance when they can afford their own health insurance. That was the change in ObamaCare that was made during COVID.

We should take a look at what the original income cap was under the Affordable Care Act. It was 400 percent of the poverty level. Now, we can decide what it should be, but surely we ought to be able to agree in a bipartisan way that there should be some cap on income so that very wealthy individuals are not able to receive taxpayer-funded tax credits. Let's limit that to those who are in middle-income and lower income families.

There are other great ideas that have been raised by our colleagues on how we can reform the ACA to make health insurance more affordable. I know that the chair of the HELP Committee, Senator CASSIDY, who is a medical doctor, as well as Chairman MIKE CRAPO of the Finance Committee have promised to have hearings to take a hard look at

this, and we have the commitment of the majority leader to bring these bills to the floor.

So it is just not true that we are ignoring this issue. We do need to act by the end of the year, and that is exactly what the majority leader has promised.

In addition, he has pledged to bring additional, yearlong appropriations bills to the Senate floor. We will be doing that shortly, and that is the right thing to do.

I want to thank the eight Democrats who yesterday stood up for the American people and did what was right: pledged to reopen government; to pass these three appropriations bills that Members of this Chamber passed by over 80 votes on August 1 and which will take away the threat of any kind of shut down for the programs in those three bills.

As I mentioned, the last bill is the Leg Branch bill. I want to thank Senator MARKWAYNE MULLIN for his leadership on that bill as well.

We have terrific members on the Appropriations Committee on both sides of the aisle who have worked so hard, and I must say that I think all of them ought to be voting for this package of bills tonight.

I made most of my comments yesterday when I brought these bills to floor. There are others who are seeking recognition, so I will cease my remarks. But I just want to encourage everyone to cast their vote for this package of bills so that we can send it over to our House colleagues, where I hope they will do the same, and then send it to the President, who has already endorsed this package and pledged to sign the bill into law.

Let's end this entirely unnecessary, shameful shutdown.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided, prior to each rollcall in relation to Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371.

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

VOTE ON MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Ms. COLLINS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 60, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 611 Leg.]

YEAS—60

Banks	Cassidy	Cruz
Barrasso	Collins	Curtis
Blackburn	Cornyn	Daines
Boozman	Cortez Masto	Durbin
Britt	Cotton	Ernst
Budd	Cramer	Fetterman
Capito	Crapo	Fischer

Graham	Lankford	Rosen
Grassley	Lee	Rounds
Hagerty	Lummis	Schmitt
Hassan	Marshall	Scott (FL)
Hawley	McConnell	Scott (SC)
Hoeben	McCormick	Shaheen
Husted	Moody	Sheehy
Hyde-Smith	Moran	Sullivan
Johnson	Moreno	Thune
Justice	Mullin	Tillis
Kaine	Murkowski	Tuberville
Kennedy	Ricketts	Wicker
King	Risch	Young

NAYS—40

Alsobrooks	Kelly	Schatz
Baldwin	Kim	Schiff
Bennet	Klobuchar	Schumer
Blumenthal	Lujan	Slotkin
Blunt Rochester	Markey	Smith
Booker	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cantwell	Murphy	Warner
Coons	Murray	Warnock
Duckworth	Ossoff	Warren
Gallego	Padilla	Welch
Gillibrand	Paul	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden
Hickenlooper	Reed	
Hirono	Sanders	

The motion was agreed to.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS
AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2026

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). The clerk will report the bill.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5371) making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3937

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I call up substitute amendment No. 3937.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE], for Ms. COLLINS, proposes an amendment numbered 3937 to H.R. 5371.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask that the reading be dispensed with.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on substitute amendment No. 3937 to Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371, a bill making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes.

John Thune, Kevin Cramer, John Barasso, James Lankford, Shelley Moore Capito, James E. Risch, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Lisa Murkowski, Katie Boyd Britt, Pete Ricketts, Jon A. Husted, Roger Marshall, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Tim Sheehy, Jerry Moran, Susan M. Collins.

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays on the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3941 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3937

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 3941 from Senator PAUL.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE], for Mr. PAUL, proposes an amendment numbered 3941 to amendment No. 3937.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask that the reading be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To strike a provision modifying the definition of hemp for purposes of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946)

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Act, in title VII of division B, section 781 shall have no force or effect.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3942 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3941

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE], proposes an amendment numbered 3942 to amendment No. 3941.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask that the reading be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

At the end add the following.

"This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment."

AMENDMENT NO. 3943

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have an amendment to the text of the underlying bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE], proposes an amendment numbered 3943 to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 3937.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask that the reading be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

Strike "1 day" and insert "2 days"

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3944 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3943

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] proposes an amendment numbered 3944 to amendment No. 3943

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

At the end add the following.

"This Act shall take effect 3 days after the date of enactment."

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH AMENDMENT NO. 3945

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] moves to commit the bill, H.R. 5371, to the Committee on Appropriations to report back forthwith with instructions with an amendment numbered 3945.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask that the reading be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

At the end add the following.

"This Act shall take effect 5 days after the date of enactment."

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the motion to commit with instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3946

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have an amendment to the instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] proposes an amendment numbered 3946 to the instructions on the motion to commit with an amendment No. 3945.

Mr. THUNE. I ask consent the reading be waived.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

Strike "5 days" and insert "6 days"

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3947 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3946

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows: