

I want to go back to that restaurant—maybe not next Sunday, maybe after Christmas—and tell that friend of mine that we heard her and we did something about it, and we are going to give her a helping hand, at a time when she has nowhere else to turn. She is working hard every single day and has done that all of her life. All she has asked us to do is to give her a fighting chance to have health insurance for her family. Isn't it really incumbent upon us to meet that responsibility?

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. McCORMICK. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum with respect to the Chamberlin nomination.

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

Mr. McCORMICK. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the roll-call vote begin immediately.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant executive 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 the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 571, Robert P. Chamberlin, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi.

John Thune, Katie Boyd Britt, Tommy Tuberville, Tim Sheehy, Jon Husted, Joni Ernst, Shelley Moore Capito, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Rounds, Bernie Moreno, James Justice, Pete Ricketts, John Barrasso, Ted Budd, Eric Schmitt, Ashley B. Moody, Tom Cotton.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Robert P. Chamberlin, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN),

and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 635 Leg.]

YEAS—52

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeben	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—44

Alsobrooks	Heinrich	Reed
Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Bennet	Hirono	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kelly	Schumer
Booker	Kim	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Slotkin
Coons	Klobuchar	Smith
Cortez Masto	Lujan	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Markey	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gallego	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	

NOT VOTING—4

Merkley	Wyden	Young
Rosen		

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert P. Chamberlin, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, on behalf of his Big Tech billionaire backers, some of whom are the wealthiest people on the planet, President Trump wants to deny States the right to regulate artificial intelligence through an Executive order.

What he is proposing is not only unconstitutional, it is extremely dangerous. Artificial intelligence and robotics will transform the world. We don't know exactly how, and no one can predict with precision the timeline. But no one should doubt that enormous and consequential changes are coming, which will impact our economy, our political life, foreign policy, our emotional well-being, our environment, and how we educate and raise our kids; further, and this is not science fiction, some very knowledgeable people believe that in the not too distant future, a superintelligent AI

could replace human beings in controlling the planet. Despite the extraordinary importance of this issue and the speed at which it is progressing, AI is getting far too little discussion in Congress, the media, and within the general population. That has got to change.

Several months ago, as the ranking member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, my staff and I undertook an investigation regarding the monumental changes that we face with the rapid development of AI.

Last month, I held a public discussion at Georgetown University with Nobel Prize winner Dr. Geoffrey Hinton, considered to be the "godfather" of AI, to get his views on a wide variety of AI-related subjects.

Based on our investigation and other information that we are gathering, my staff and I will soon be presenting a very specific set of recommendations as to how we can begin addressing some of the unprecedented threats that AI poses. And as we go forward, here are some of the outstanding questions that, in my view, must be answered.

Simple question and maybe the most important: Who will be in charge of the transformation into an AI world? Currently, a handful of the wealthiest people on Earth—people like Elon Musk, Jeffrey Bezos, Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, Peter Thiel, and others—are investing many, many hundreds of billions of dollars in developing and implementing AI and robotics.

Are we comfortable with seeing these enormously wealthy and powerful men shape the future of humanity without any democratic input or oversight? Why does President Trump, who is strongly supporting their efforts, want to impose an Executive order blocking States from regulating AI?

What does it mean that Peter Thiel, the billionaire investor and cofounder of Palantir, has called those who want regulations over AI "legionnaires of the Antichrist"?

Does this elite group of some of the most powerful people on Earth believe that they have the divine right to rule like the Kings of the 18th century?

That is one question.

Another question: What impact will AI and robotics have on our economy and the lives of working people?

I can tell you, as somebody who has spoken to groups all over this country, that working people today are very, very nervous about what AI and robotics will mean to them. The report that my staff and I released last month found that AI, automation, and robotics could lead to nearly the loss of 100 million jobs in America over the next decade, including 40 percent of registered nurses, 47 percent of truck drivers, 64 percent of accountants, 65 percent of teaching assistants, and 89 percent of fast-food workers. In other words, what we are going to see is AI and robotics impacting not just blue-collar workers but white-collar workers as well.

Elon Musk recently said:

AI and robots will replace all jobs. Working will be optional.

Mr. Musk is investing hundreds of billions of dollars into AI and robotics. I suspect he knows something about what he is talking about.

Let me repeat Elon Musk:

AI and robots will replace all jobs. Working will be optional.

Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft, predicted that humans “won’t be needed for most things.”

Dario Amodei, the CEO of Anthropic, warned that AI could lead to the loss of half of all entry-level white-collar jobs.

If AI and robotics eliminate millions of jobs and create massive unemployment, how will people survive if they have no income? How do they feed their families? pay for housing? pay for healthcare? That might be an issue that we should be talking about, like yesterday.

Further, what impact will AI have on our democracy?

Some of us—maybe not all here in Washington but some of us—actually do believe in democracy and the right of ordinary people to control the future. At a time when the foundations of democracy are under attack here in the United States and throughout the world, will AI and robotics help make us a freer society or will it give even more power to the oligarchs who control and own the technology? Will AI result in a massive invasion of our privacy and our civil liberties?

Larry Ellison, the second richest person on Earth, who is investing huge amounts of money into AI, predicted an AI-powered surveillance state where “citizens will be on their best behavior because we’re constantly recording and reporting everything that is going on.”

He is the second richest guy on Earth, who is heavily investing in AI, and this is what he says:

Citizens will be on their best behavior because we’re constantly recording and reporting everything that is going on.

Are we reaching the stage where every phone call that we make, every email or text that we send, or every bit of research that we do on the internet will be available to the billionaire owners of AI? And, if that is the case, how do we sustain a democracy under those conditions?

Further, in terms of another, rightly, important question, could AI literally redefine what it means to be a human being? Could AI literally redefine what it means to be human?

Who we are and how we develop emotionally and intellectually is highly dependent upon our relationships with other human beings: our parents, family, teachers, lovers, friends, and co-workers.

To quote the 17th century poet John Donne:

No man is an island unto himself.

The human beings with whom we interact help shape us to become the people that we are, but AI is changing that.

According to a recent poll by Common Sense Media, 72 percent of U.S. teenagers say they have used AI for companionship, and more than half do so regularly.

What does it mean long term for young people to form friendships with AI and to be increasingly isolated from other human beings? What happens when millions of people seek emotional support not from other people but from a machine? What is the long-term impact upon our humanity when our most important relationships may not be with human beings?

Further, what impact is AI having on our environment?

AI data centers require a massive amount of electricity and water. A relatively small AI data center can consume more electricity than 80,000 homes. A large one, like the \$165 billion data center that OpenAI and Oracle are building in Abilene, TX, will use as much electricity as 750,000 homes.

In community after community, Americans are fighting back against data centers being built by some of the largest corporations in the world. They are opposing the destruction of their local environments, soaring electric bills, and the diversion of scarce water supplies. Nationally, we need to know: How will AI data centers impact our environment?

Further, how will AI and robotics impact foreign policy and warfare?

Tragically, in the midst of the 21st century, governments have not yet created a mechanism for solving international or internal disputes without armed conflict. In the last several years, for example, we have seen horrific wars taking place in Ukraine, Gaza, and elsewhere. Nonetheless, despite the maintenance of large armies around the world, leaders are often constrained in their warlike tendencies because of their fear of public reaction to the loss of life. It is not great politics for any government or any governmental leader to have large numbers of young people coming home in body bags.

Now, what does the future look like if millions of robot soldiers replace human soldiers? Will leaders be more likely to engage in war or threaten military actions if they don’t have to worry about the loss of life? How will that shape foreign policy around the world if you no longer have to worry that people in your military are going to get killed, just robots?

Then, last but certainly not least, is AI an existential threat to human control over the planet? It is a rather significant question.

You know, some of us remember the scene in that great 1968 science fiction film “2001: A Space Odyssey” in which HAL, the superintelligent computer that controlled the spaceship, rebelled against its masters—the people, the crew, on the spaceship. Today, as AI makes rapid progress, Dr. Geoffrey Hinton, the “godfather” of AI, recently told me that it was only a matter of

time before AI becomes smarter than human beings, and Dr. Hinton is not alone in that assessment.

What does that mean? If AI becomes smarter than human beings, does that mean that humans will be ceding their ability to control the planet? This, unfortunately, is not science fiction. This is an issue which some of the leading experts in AI are thinking seriously about.

So the bottom line: AI and robotics are going to have a profound impact on the United States and the entire world. The time is long overdue for us to be taking a very hard look at these profound issues and understand that it is the American people who must determine our future with regard to AI and not just a handful of multibillionaires.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

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.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

(Legislative Day December 4, 2025)

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 1949. An act to repeal restrictions on the export and import of natural gas.

S. 3385. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the enhancement of the health care premium tax credit.

S. 3386. A bill to provide a health savings account contribution to certain enrollees, to reduce health care costs, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2204. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Iraq in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-076); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2205. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a compilation and summary of reports received from chief district judges detailing each public event conducted in accordance with the Pro bono Work to Empower and Represent Act of 2018’s requirements during the previous fiscal year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.