

So, if you are watching the deliberations here in the U.S. Senate, be mindful of the fact that their plan is to fund a war that will go on indefinitely, and as a result the price at the pump, the price for heating oil and the price for natural gas are going to continue to spike.

It doesn't make any difference whether you are just an ordinary family member with their car and they are trying to fill it up or if you are a small business person who is basically saying: Oh, my goodness. There has been a 40-percent increase in the price I have to pay for my home heating oil tank or to just keep my business warm or the air-conditioning on. It is everybody in America who is going to pay the price because of what Trump is seeking to perpetrate upon the American people because there is no energy independence when we depend upon fossil fuels.

We need to ensure that we move to real energy independence. That is a renewable energy agenda—an all-electric vehicle future. That is when we will have energy independence. We were heading in that direction before Trump cut the clean energy incentives, the clean energy programs, and these CEOs, you know, are now reaping the benefits of that—the fossil fuel CEOs personally. They are getting the wind-fall profits. They are able to engage in this profiteering out on the open marketplace.

By the way, the price of oil goes up like a rocket when the crisis starts, but it comes down like a feather, very slowly, so that the oil and gas industry can milk every last cent out of every single consumer, tipping them upside down at the gas station and shaking money out of their pockets so that they can enjoy those profits while they are chuckling that they won't have the competition from the wind and solar and all-electric vehicle industries that were moving at the most rapid pace that our country had ever seen, and it was endangering the business model of the oil and gas industry.

And Lee Zeldin? He was at the front of the line saying: We are going to end that threat. We are going to make sure that those oil and gas and coal executives don't have to worry about their business future.

And who is going to pay the price?

The price is going to be paid in higher taxes to fight this war by ordinary families, in higher prices at the pump by ordinary families to fight this war, and by the families who are going to, unfortunately, lose loved ones who are service people who are serving our country over there. The price is going to be very high for American families.

And who is going to benefit?

It is going to be the oil company executives. It is going to be the natural gas company executives.

That is where we are right now. We need to end this war, and we need to end the war on clean energy technologies because we have no energy independence as long as we are depend-

ent upon fossil fuels. That is the big headline of what has happened over the first 28 days of this war, and that is why Senator WHITEHOUSE, myself, and others on this floor are going to campaign all year long on these issues.

We are going to campaign against the Zeldin agenda, against the Wright agenda, the Burgum agenda, and, ultimately, the Trump agenda, which is nothing more than the oil and gas and coal industry agenda for our country—making us less healthy, less safe, more dependent upon fuels that get us into more and more danger the more that we allow ourselves to have this law of unintended consequences to its pluperfect form be invoked every single time we go over to the Middle East for a war.

So that is where we are right now. We have got this moment where, as a Senate, we can stand up and fight; or we can be like the Republicans out here, who can see the rising costs for all of these goods—including healthcare; including their tariffs, the sales tax which Trump has imposed on pretty much every product in our country.

The American public is arriving with pitchforks, heading toward the Republicans at the polls this year, and they know it. And that is why, for the last several days, they have tried to squash Americans' right to vote, Americans' right to be able to go in and cast a ballot independently and freely without fear.

That is what the SAVE Act is all about. The SAVE Act is all about squashing the ability for minorities, for married women, for transgender folks to be able to vote this year, because they are afraid they are going to lose.

The SAVE Act is really the "Save Their Asses Act." That is what it is all about. How do they protect themselves from all of these rising costs that are coming from Trump economic policies? That is what this is all about—the bottom line.

The way to protect themselves while enriching the oil and gas and coal industry, the insurance industry, all of those industries that are part of that MAGA coalition? Just suppress the vote. Just make sure fewer people show up at the polls.

So that is really at the heart of where we are right now on the floor of the U.S. Senate. We are waiting for the Republicans to finally become responsible, to accept the responsibility of actually responding to the real harm that is being imposed upon American families.

So, from my perspective, we are at a historic inflection point, and I just hope that the Republicans finally—finally—hear the American people, because, otherwise, as Steve Bannon said, having these ICE agents go to the airports right now is only going to be practice for ICE agents at the polls in Georgia, in Ohio this fall, in order to suppress the vote of the American peo-

ple. And it is all to protect this assault upon affordability, assault upon the budgets of ordinary American families.

And at the heart of it all is a failed energy policy, because every American driver is going to have to spend \$500 to \$600 more this year just to drive their car. And the same thing is true for home heating oil users and natural gas users, and that price is built into that family budget that they are seeking to figure out how to pay right now in every home across our country.

So this little detour that Donald Trump is taking has put a spotlight on his energy policy in a way that, in my opinion, requires us now to take this movement, to create the momentum, to create the moment where, next year, once again, we have a vote out here on the Senate floor; and that vote will be to restore all the tax breaks for wind, all of the tax breaks for solar, all of the tax breaks for all-electric vehicles, all of the tax breaks for all of those technologies which were flourishing and were reducing costs and greenhouse gas emissions, while employing hard-working union employees all across our country.

That is what is about to unfold over the next 7 months in our country—this battle for the soul of our Nation, which, at its heart is: How do we protect ordinary American families? And included in that is the protection against the absolute exploitation of them by the most powerful interest in our Nation: the oil and the gas industry.

So with that, I yield the floor.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUDD). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. KIM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

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

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 11:56 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 2:17 a.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. MORENO).

SAFEGUARD AMERICAN VOTER ELIGIBILITY ACT—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 311, H.R. 7147.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7147) making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

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

The amendment (No. 4790), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

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

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

Mr. THUNE. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the bill?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 7147), as amended, was passed.

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The Senator from Missouri.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 4277

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, the bill in the Chamber well right now does one simple thing: It gives U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement stable, long-term funding so it can do the job the Congress assigned it to do—enforce the immigration laws on the books and protect the American people. It provides \$100.36 billion for operations and support and provides \$5 billion for procurement, construction, and improvements, all available through September 30, 2036.

This bill is necessary because Democrats are trying to do through appropriations what they could not do in public debate. They could not persuade the American people to support amnesty for millions of illegal aliens who poured into this country under the Biden Presidency. They could not stop President Trump from closing the border. So now they are trying to cripple interior enforcement by defunding and hamstringing ICE.

But either today or through reconciliation, we will fully fund ICE. That is what this fight is about. The

border is closing. The next task is deportation, and deportation requires officers, detention space, transportation, technology, and operational support. It requires an ICE that is funded to do the job it is charged to do, not be starved out by politicians who want enforcement to fail. My bill says plainly we are not going to let that happen.

Democrats' own rhetoric gives away the game. They say they only want to deport the worst of the worst, but if that were true, they would not be trying to weaken the very Agency responsible for finding, detaining, and removing criminal illegal aliens. You cannot claim to support deporting dangerous offenders while working to cut the legs out from underneath ICE.

We are not going to abolish ICE by a budgetary gimmick. We are not going to force the Agency to do more with less while the left expands sanctuary policies, wages lawfare against deportation, and turns enforcement into a political target. We are not going to accept the lie that immigration enforcement should begin only when an illegal alien has already committed a violent crime in this country because by then, for some American families, it is already too late.

And we know what that looks like. It looks like Laken Riley; it looks like Stephanie Minter; it looks like Sheridan Gorman; it looks like Katie Abraham—Americans whose lives cannot be restored after the fact because Washington refused to enforce the law before the next crime was committed.

That is why this bill matters. This bill funds deportation operations. It funds the officers who carry them out. It funds the actual enforcement of our laws Congress has passed, Republicans and Democrats alike. It says that the answer to a border invasion is not performative outrage followed by bureaucratic surrender; the answer is enforcement.

So the question before the Senate is simple: Are we going to fund immigration enforcement or not?

We will be back in reconciliation, where 50-plus-1 votes are enough and the filibuster cannot save you. We will be back to deliver the funding for ICE needs, and we will be back to deliver the policy changes the American people are demanding.

By the way, if we are going to do another reconciliation bill, I may want to do something more than budgetary measures to help ICE do its job, like defunding sanctuary cities or removing the financial incentives for illegal immigration. So be careful what you wish for.

All of it—all of it—will be paid for, all of it targeted, all of it designed to give ICE the tools and funding it actually needs.

To my Democratic colleagues: This bill is the moderate option. What is coming next is going to supercharge deportations.

To my Republican colleagues: Let this be a rallying cry. Every time the

Democrats obstruct the safety of American families, the wall gets 10 feet higher and ICE gets another \$100 billion. Because the American people are watching. They see exactly who is standing in the way of law enforcement and public safety, and they are not going to forget it. The safety of American citizens is not optional, and neither is our resolve to defend it.

With that, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 4277, which is at the desk. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. KIM. Mr. President, reserving the right to object. That is right; the American people have been watching. What they have seen is that the Democrats have been steadfast in our insistence that we not support providing more funding for ICE without also including commonsense reforms to rein in the abuses we have seen in Minnesota and elsewhere, particularly after two Americans were shot and killed.

All we have been demanding here is what the American people are demanding: body-worn cameras; no masks; keeping ICE agents out of our hospitals, schools, and churches; and ensuring ICE follows the same practices and procedures as local law enforcement.

We have just spent 6 weeks having this very fundamental argument with Republicans over providing new funding to ICE in 2026. Now, this UC would provide 10 years of funding to ICE with zero reforms—10 years, \$100 billion, and that is on top of the \$75 billion Republicans already gave ICE last year.

So for those same reasons Democrats have made on the floor the past several weeks, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 672.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John Thomas Shepherd, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas.

CLOTURE MOTION

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