

accomplish it and have even produced corn yielding 350 bushels of corn per acre. And I don't know if that is going to be something that is going to be common, 20 years from now or maybe even 10 years from now, but we sure have made great progress.

When I started farming, in 1960, when my dad died, I was probably producing about 50 bushels of corn per acre. More recently, we have reached the 200-bushel level.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

WELCOMING KING CHARLES AND QUEEN CAMILLA OF ENGLAND

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin, I want to mention how pleased we are to be able to welcome King Charles and Queen Camilla to the Capitol today.

A special relationship between our two nations has been a long and fruitful one, and I think it is fair to say that over the course of our Nation's history, we have had no closer ally than Great Britain.

We have stood together in war and in peace and, together, opposed the enemies of the free world. And I am confident that we will continue to stand together for centuries to come.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, this week is National Apprenticeship Week. This week, we celebrate the pathways that apprenticeships provide for many Americans to attain their American dream, to find a good-paying job, and to do meaningful work.

Working in the trades or in manufacturing is, indeed, meaningful work. No matter how far technology advances, we are still going to need builders, doers, and makers.

To my knowledge, there is no artificial intelligence that can climb an electric pole; there is no chatbot that can fix a toilet; and there is no app that will install your home's HVAC system.

Skilled jobs are in-demand jobs, and they are going to be in demand for a long time to come. And we need to invest in and support the next generation of skilled professionals.

That is one of the things that Republicans did last year in the Working

Families Tax Cut bill. That landmark piece of legislation made a significant investment in American workers, starting with investing in education and training programs that support skilled jobs.

For decades now, the 529 education savings plan has been a powerful tool for parents to save for their kids' education. At first, 529s could only be used for college; but in 2017, Republicans expanded the eligible uses of 529 plans to include K-12 expenses as well.

And in last year's Working Families Tax Cut, Republicans expanded 529s again and gave Americans flexibility to use their savings for vocational and continuing education programs as well.

On top of that, we doubled the withdrawal limit to \$20,000 per year, giving Americans even greater flexibility to choose a program that suits their needs and their dreams.

The expansion of 529s complements the creation of new Trump Accounts in the Working Families Tax Cut. Trump Accounts provide parents with another option to invest in their children's future.

The money in those accounts can be used for education, to buy a first home, or to start a business when a child reaches adulthood. They are just one more way to give the next generation a head start on their American dream.

And speaking of creating options and opportunity, beginning this summer, Americans will be able to take advantage of the new Workforce Pell program created by the Working Families Tax Cut.

Most people are probably familiar with the traditional Pell Grant Program. Pell grants offer need-based financial aid for students in undergraduate degree programs. And until now, they have generally been limited to students in those programs.

Workforce Pell will provide financial assistance to Americans in shorter-term skills and career training programs. It will help workers pursuing skills for in-demand jobs at various stages of their careers. And it will be available to those just joining the workforce, those looking to grow and advance in their careers, and those who may be looking to switch careers, even if they have already earned a bachelor's degree.

And this innovative new program will help grow the workforce for a number of important jobs: careers in healthcare like phlebotomy and paramedicine, truck driving, childcare, welding, and numerous other skilled professions that provide pathways to success.

In addition to supporting the education needed for more Americans to pursue careers in the trades and in manufacturing, the Working Families Tax Cut also supports their success once they are in those jobs.

The pro-worker and pro-growth tax policy in the bill allows American workers to keep more of their hard-earned money and supports the small

business growth, job growth, and entrepreneurship that mean more opportunities for Americans to get ahead.

The Working Families Tax Cut made lower tax rates permanent, which means bigger paychecks and bigger refunds for hard-working Americans.

And then there is no tax on overtime, which allows workers to keep more of the money they earn when they spend extra hours on the job. It is not uncommon for workers in manufacturing and the trades to put in more than 40 hours a week. So no tax on overtime is going to deliver significant tax savings to many of these Americans.

And then there are the pro-growth tax policies in this bill, like permanently lowered tax rates for small businesses. The 199A small business deduction is also now a permanent feature of America's Tax Code. It allows small businesses, farms, and ranches to reduce their tax burden and invest more in their operations and in their employees.

And then there is full expensing for new equipment, which is now permanent thanks to this bill, and supports businesses upgrading and replacing machinery and other equipment that is essential to their work.

This landmark bill also allows for full expensing of new factories and factory improvements. And we have seen a number of manufacturing investments being made across the United States since this bill passed last year.

One of the pillars of the Working Families Tax Cut is providing Americans with more opportunities to get ahead. And everything I have mentioned this morning is about cultivating opportunity, whether it is investing in education, supporting good-paying jobs, encouraging entrepreneurship, and promoting an economic environment where businesses can grow and create those good-paying jobs.

That is what the Working Families Tax Cut is all about, and this story is only just beginning to be written.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as our Nation wages Donald Trump's reckless war with a dangerous and erratic enemy and as the Department of Homeland Security is still not funded because of the high jinks within the

President's own party, Donald Trump has decided to focus on a taxpayer-funded, gold-plated ballroom instead of focusing on these important national security issues: the war in Iran—dangerous for the United States; the fact that we haven't funded Homeland Security—dangerous for the United States. Does Donald Trump roll up his sleeves and say "Let's solve these problems"? No. He is focused on this ballroom—his gilded, gold-plated, taxpayer-funded ballroom—instead of focusing on the important national security issues facing the country.

Trump's values are perverse—just perverse. If the President and House Republicans truly care about our national security, fund DHS, fund the Secret Service, fund CISA, fund the Coast Guard, fund all the crucial, law-abiding Agencies that every Democrat and every Republican in the Senate unanimously voted to fund not once but twice.

Now House Republicans say they are tinkering with technical changes to our legislation.

Speaker JOHNSON, our bill—our bipartisan bill—doesn't need any changes. Just pass the damn thing. Pass the damn thing. We desperately need it.

Democrats chose to fund national security and keep Americans safe. For 32 days, House Republicans have blocked the funding for DHS. Donald Trump and Republicans' fixation on the ballroom just shows how out of touch—how very out of touch—they are.

Let us not forget that last year, Karoline Leavitt said Trump's gilded ballroom "is not going to cost the taxpayers a dime." Well, rewind. Instead, the ballroom is going to cost the taxpayers a pretty penny, to the tune of \$400 million. Let me repeat: \$400 million for Trump's walled palace—that is how much his acolyte Senator GRAHAM wants to authorize for the project in this new bill. He has also floated potentially forcing through ballroom funding with Republicans' partisan reconciliation process. Rush it through without debate and without amendment—\$400 million for a ballroom? Seriously? Apparently, Donald Trump wasn't satisfied with forcing Americans to foot the bill for a war they do not want and \$1 trillion in tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires that Americans eschew. It is absolute absurdity.

What happened to funding the ballroom with tens of millions of dollars in shady donations Trump received from billionaires and corporations or with the billions his family has made off the Presidency? What happened to that—ignoble as that was?

Instead of spending \$400 million to build a walled palace for Donald Trump, Republicans should use that money to lower housing, food, gas, and healthcare costs for the American people. I am putting out a framework today on how to bring down healthcare costs. Republicans ought to follow it—helping the American people for once.

Unfortunately, holding up DHS funding isn't the only way Republican infighting is threatening America's national security.

Speaker JOHNSON, Donald Trump, and national Republicans: America's national security is at stake. Get your act together on FISA. America cannot afford for you to continue dithering on FISA.

Get your act together, Speaker JOHNSON. Run the House of Representatives like it should be run—dealing with the problems America faces.

CUBA

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, on Cuba, since launching his disastrous war with Iran, Donald Trump has said that "Cuba's going to be next" and that "we may stop by Cuba" after we are finished.

The last thing working Americans need right now is another war, let alone one that is 90 miles south of the United States.

Republicans must get out in front of the looming catastrophe in Cuba before it gets even worse, as they should have done with Trump's war in Iran.

Today, Senate Democrats will advance a War Powers Resolution to give Republicans an opportunity to stop a looming catastrophe in Cuba.

Republicans, do Trump a favor: Support our War Powers Resolution so he doesn't get messed up in another foreign adventure that hurts America.

JOINT MEETING OF CONGRESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on King Charles, today is a great honor for both the House and Senate to welcome His Majesty King Charles III to address a joint meeting of Congress.

It has been 35 years since a British monarch addressed the elected representatives of the American people. In that time, the world has changed dramatically, but in many ways, the same tests remain before us. Conflict still grips regions across the globe, Russia grows more aggressive, the Middle East remains unstable, and the future of the transatlantic alliance hangs in the balance.

Today, the visit of King Charles III should serve as a reminder to the President of the United States and to every elected official in this country: Friends and allies matter, and most of all, for the security of Europe, NATO matters.

I encourage His Majesty to impress upon the President the absolute importance of NATO. I hope he is able to get Trump to listen and understand the stakes. NATO must endure. It must stay strong. Our national security depends on it. The security of much of the world depends on it. To walk away from NATO would be a terrible mistake that will reverberate for generations and make Americans far less safe. Trump must listen and understand the stakes.

I yield the floor.

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.

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

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

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, as a U.S. Senator, I want to make sure we can keep America safe and secure. People who share that goal also share a common belief. The belief is this: Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Border Patrol have an important mission for our Nation. Their mission is to keep America safe and secure.

At this very moment, these vital Agencies are running out of money. Secretary of Homeland Security Markwayne Mullin has warned that the money will run out by the end of this week. We are just days away from a law enforcement funding shortfall. If ICE and Border Patrol go unfunded, America itself will become less safe.

Last week, Republicans here in the U.S. Senate passed a budget blueprint, and it fully funds these critical Agencies. That budget has now been sent to the House of Representatives. Speaker JOHNSON has pledged to all of us that he will put it on the floor as soon as tomorrow, and I encourage my colleagues there to pass it without delay. A targeted and focused bill is the right path because it is the quickest path. It funds American law enforcement now. It protects the American people now as well as into the future.

If you believe in secure borders, this bill is for you. If you believe in safe communities, this bill is for you. If you want our law enforcement fully funded for the long term despite the Democrats' best efforts to defund them, this bill is for you.

This bill is also President Trump's bill. A few weeks ago, the President gave it his complete and total endorsement. I was with the President in the Oval Office, and we sat down and went through it. President Trump has been clear. He says he wants this funding bill on his desk. Senate Republicans heard him loud and clear. We stuck together. We passed a budget blueprint. It is one that keeps America safe. Republicans need to continue to stick together to meet the President's deadline.

Every Republican knows why this reconciliation process is necessary. It is necessary because, as President Trump has rightfully said, protecting American citizens is the first duty of government, and it is necessary because, as Senate Democrats continue to demonstrate, protecting American citizens is something that Democrats oppose. They have actively obstructed it.