

that don't have it year-round, all of a sudden, it becomes quite a controversial issue, something I just don't understand.

I think it is the case that now we are having some legislation to bring certainty to the issue of E15, and it is going to make it possible for retailers to invest in the very expensive pumps that it takes to distribute E15, and that certainty is very necessary for that investment. But, all of a sudden, it becomes a very controversial issue, where it has not been a controversial issue by Presidential waiver or by those eight State Governors petitioning EPA to have it in those States.

It ought to be done now and help American agriculture and reduce the price of gasoline tremendously through E15.

Now, I hear from some States that don't have E15 that their people don't want it because it is going to raise the price of gasoline.

Come to Iowa. Come to other Midwestern States where we have E15 year-round, and you will find the gasoline that has ethanol with a 15-percent mixture cheaper than any other grade of gas that you can buy.

I yield the floor.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, we are a Nation of immigrants, but we are also a Nation of laws. That is a common-sense statement and one on which Republicans and Democrats should be able to agree. But, lately, Democrats have proved that they don't really think we are a Nation of laws. In fact, they don't really seem to care whether some of our laws, particularly laws dealing with border security and illegal immigration, get enforced at all.

And they are even trying to defund the very Agencies that enforce those laws. That is right: no funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement; no funding for Border Patrol. This is what passes for a reasonable proposal in the Democrat Party today.

Democrats apparently think it is reasonable to have nobody patrolling the southern border. They think it is reasonable to let criminal illegal immigrants continue living freely in our country. If that is the Democrats' position, I guess it just proves how far to the left their party has moved.

While our Democrat colleagues try to appeal to the "defund the police" crowd, Republicans are doing our job. Last week, Senate Republicans moved forward to begin a process that will allow us to fund Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement without—without—Democrats.

And in order to prevent Democrats from trying to defund law enforcement again in September, we are going to fund these Agencies for the next 3 years. We are going to give these law enforcement officers certainty that they won't be used as political pawns by Democrats and that they will be able to do the job they were hired to do. And that is an important job.

Protecting our borders and deporting criminal illegal aliens are essential components of our country's security. It is unfortunate that Democrats don't agree.

Last week, the Democrat leader said that Border Patrol and ICE are two Agencies that "nobody respects in this country."

"Nobody respects Border Patrol and ICE." That is what he said.

Apparently, the fact that there are men and women putting their lives on the line to ensure dangerous individuals don't enter our country does not merit respect from Senate Democrats.

I guess it is no surprise. After all, Democrats have a history of failing to respect our immigration laws. The Biden administration clearly did not believe in enforcing immigration laws, and the result was 4 years of record-breaking illegal immigration under President Biden's watch.

Millions—millions—were coming here illegally every single year, and a whole lot of those people were waved through and allowed to take up residence in this country.

And long before the Biden border crisis, Democrat-led cities and States were implementing sanctuary city policies that prevented their law enforcement agencies from working with Federal law enforcement to get criminal illegal immigrants off our streets.

These misguided policies have had tragic consequences. Laken Riley is just one example. Mr. President, 2 years ago, Laken was murdered while out on a run on the campus of the University of Georgia. Her killer was an illegal immigrant who should never have had the opportunity to get near her.

He entered the country illegally during the Biden administration. He was released into the interior and was subsequently arrested in New York City and later issued a citation for shoplifting in Georgia a few short months before Laken's murder.

After being arrested in New York City, he was released before Immigration and Customs Enforcement could issue a detainer, a request that police hold an individual so that he could be taken into immigration custody.

And so this individual, here in the United States illegally—and subsequently involved in two crimes—was

free on the University of Georgia campus when Laken Riley went running in February of 2024.

A man, who had illegally entered our country and then committed not one but two crimes in our country, should not have been free on our streets, but he was because of open border and sanctuary policies implemented by Democrats.

The Democrats haven't learned their lesson. Today, Democrats are advocating for defunding border security and immigration enforcement. They are advocating for a return to the policies that led to tragedies like the murder of Laken Riley, policies that led to a crisis at the southern border and made America and Americans less safe.

Thanks to Democrats, we have seen what happens when our immigration laws aren't enforced. No one—no one—wants to go back to that—no one, I guess, but Democrats. We are not about to let that happen. Republicans will continue to work to ensure that our borders are secure and that dangerous criminals are not on our streets.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 728.

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 bill clerk read the nomination of Kevin Warsh, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2026.

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 senior assistant 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 the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 728, Kevin Warsh, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of fourteen years from February 1, 2026.

John Thune, Ted Budd, Mike Crapo, Mike Rounds, Kevin Cramer, Bill Cassidy, Katie Boyd Britt, Ashley B. Moody, John Boozman, Jon A. Husted, Roger F. Wicker, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, James E. Risch, James Lankford, Steve Daines, Shelley Moore Capito.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 727.

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 bill clerk read the nomination of Kevin Warsh, of Florida, to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of four years.

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 senior assistant 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 the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 727, Kevin Warsh, of Florida, to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for a term of four years.

John Thune, Ted Budd, Mike Crapo, Mike Rounds, Kevin Cramer, Bill Cassidy, Katie Boyd Britt, Ashley B. Moody, John Boozman, Jon A. Husted, Roger F. Wicker, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, James E. Risch, James Lankford, Steve Daines, Shelley Moore Capito.

Mr. THUNE. I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

INFLATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this morning, America received another gut punch about the rising costs that they have to pay because we learned that inflation rose to 3.5 percent in March—the highest rate in almost 3 years. Do you know what that means? A 3.5-percent increase in inflation means Americans are paying more and more and more; and it means, at a time of rising costs that people hate, Donald Trump is making things worse, not better.

The historic blunder in Iran is compounding the increase in prices. There was an increase in prices before this bad war that Trump never should have called to begin with. Prices were going up for groceries. Prices were going up for electric rates. Prices were going up for healthcare. Prices were going up for childcare. Prices were going up because of tariffs—and then the war. Gasoline is over \$4 a gallon, higher than it has been. The price of crude oil is higher than it has been in a very long time, all because of a war

where Trump seems to have no direction, no aim, no purpose, no conclusion.

Let me repeat: Inflation rose 3.5 percent. There are higher costs on everything. There are higher costs on groceries, on household essentials, on everything Americans need just to get by. When oil costs go up, so does fertilizer, so does food, so does anything that travels by truck or train. So these costs are hurting everybody, and it is getting worse.

Donald Trump, do you see what the inflation number means? Costs are getting worse. Affordability is getting tougher. People are paying more, all because of you, Donald Trump.

Trump said he would bring costs down on day one. Well, here we are—15 months after Trump took office—and costs are skyrocketing so fast they are breaking records. As to the war, which is compounding the increases in inflation, Trump has no plan to show us how to get out of this quagmire just as he had no plan when he got us into this mess.

After weeks of leaving Congress in the dark about the state of Trump's disastrous war, Hegseth came to the Capitol to testify yesterday. What he said was disgraceful.

Here is what he said:

The biggest challenge, the biggest adversary we face at this point are the reckless, feckless and defeatist words of congressional Democrats and some Republicans.

Give me a break. You caused the war and your boss Donald Trump. You got us into this mess, and you can't get us out of this mess, so you try to point a finger. People don't buy that. Maybe a few MAGA listeners of FOX News do but not anybody else.

So I say to Hegseth, take a look in the mirror.

Our greatest challenge in Iran is Donald Trump and Secretary Hegseth, and Americans know it. The war is unpopular. They blame Trump for it, of course. The greatest obstacle to peace is the incompetence of the Secretary of Defense and of the President of the United States.

Hegseth said the war has been an astounding victory and that the American people support it.

Your intel is off, Secretary Hegseth. Fewer than one in four Americans thinks this war has been worthwhile. Let me repeat that to you: Fewer than one in four Americans thinks this war has been worthwhile, and a huge number of Republicans and Independents, not just Democrats, agrees. So stop being partisan. Stop pointing fingers. Roll up your sleeves and come to an end with this mess, this quagmire.

As for an astounding victory, of course, our servicemembers perform impressively—they always do—but they are saddled with the bad decision making of this President and his Cabinet, as 13 American servicemembers have been killed, nearly 400 have been wounded, and the Pentagon says it has spent at least \$25 billion on this war so

far. Meanwhile, American families are hurting every time they go to the gas station or grocery store, all with no strategic aim.

Is that what Pete Hegseth thinks is an astounding victory?

Are you going to take out a brass band and salute that inflation is up 3.5 percent? salute that the Strait of Hormuz is still closed? salute that we still haven't found the nuclear facilities and potential weaponry that Iran has?

None of that has been advanced. So this is not an astounding victory.

It is past time that Senate Republicans joined Democrats on our War Powers Resolution. We have forced votes on our resolutions five times and we are going to force it a sixth time today and it is going to come back week after week.

Republican Senators, you can't escape this. You are culpable. You are preventing an end to this war, and Americans want to see an end to the war.

Tomorrow marks 60 days since Donald Trump officially notified Congress about his attack on Iran. After we cross that 60-day threshold, there can be no more doubt that he is violating the War Powers Act. Republicans are out of hollow excuses. They are out of hiding places.

End this war, Republicans. Bring our troops home. Stop bleeding taxpayers dry. Support our War Powers Resolution.

EN BLOC NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, on the noms package, this is another incredible thing as to the new lows that this administration goes to. Every day, there is a newer one. It is amazing. It is no surprise that Donald Trump's popularity ratings are in the mid-thirties. He does such profoundly crazy things, bad things, almost evil things. To pick somebody for the Federal court who was there on January 6, that is evil. That is not just supporting insurrection, that is elevating insurrection. But that is what is happening here. Republicans continue to force through some of the shadiest, most unqualified nominees I have ever seen. The loyalists—the Trump loyalists—in today's package are awful.

Darin Smith—Trump's pick for the district court of Wyoming—has no criminal or Federal court experience, opposes same-sex marriage, and supports teaching creationism in the public schools, but that is not the No. 1 thing against him. Smith was present at the Capitol on January 6, and now Trump wants him to uphold law and order. What hypocrisy. What fakery. How disgusting.

Donald Trump, you reach a new low every day—a new low every day—to make those who tried to take over the Capitol and create an insurrection heroes and elevate them to judgeships. That is why you are so unpopular, Donald Trump. You are in this bubble, and you have too many people in this