

emails were made public in January of last year. Thibault's own words paint the picture. And this is the same agent who violated the Hatch Act for anti-Trump partisan conduct. Not only was that fact not reported by The Hill, the outlet also couldn't be bothered to report on those emails that we released.

By the way, we didn't get those records from the government either; we got them from patriotic whistleblowers.

The Hill's reporting accuses our record production of playing a significant role in FBI agents being fired. Now, The Hill knows this, but they don't report it: The FBI makes personnel decisions, not we, Members of Congress.

The Hill's reporting failed to take into account the Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation names that I have made public which gave them credit for doing good work. For example, last year, I issued a majority staff report on then-Secretary of State John Kerry's interfering in the FBI arresting high-level Iranian nationals and the targets that those nationals were. I also released FBI records about agents attempting to investigate the Clinton Foundation. Credit ought to be given to those government officials who did their job. I have received no complaints about making their names public.

Yet The Hill focused on Arctic Frost, and in doing so, buried the lede:

The documents released by Grassley include names of nearly 70 FBI agents and employees. That includes some figures already known to the public, as well as other agents whose case history the bureau is well aware of.

Now, I have five points.

First, it is common practice to make public the names of taxpayer-funded government officials whose conduct is within the public interest. That is especially the case when their names are already public. Now, I call that and I hope everybody around here calls that accountability.

Second, not all of the named individuals have been fired.

Third, The Hill article fails to explicitly note that three of the FBI agents who sued over their termination had their names public before we released them. In fact, one name was public as early as 2016.

Fourth, our document production made those three names public on January 30, 2025, during Kash Patel's nomination hearing to be FBI Director. Clearly, he and then-FBI leadership didn't give us those records. Who gave us those records? Well, where we get most of our records—patriotic whistleblowers did that.

The fifth and last point, Patel fired those three agents approximately 10 months after we made their names public on January 30. But, again, their names were public years before our release.

Now, the point I am trying to make is that The Hill is not doing its job.

They failed to mention all those critical facts.

Next, The Hill takes a shot at the FBI 1023 document that Chairman COMER and I made public in the last Congress. That is the one about the Biden bribery allegations. Also, The Hill failed to mention that Senator JOHNSON and I made public two additional FBI 1023 documents last year. Both of those documents provided additional information from FBI informants about Biden family criminality.

So there are at least three different FBI confidential human sources. Each provided information about the Biden family criminality on three separate occasions. And the sources provided that information to three different FBI agents.

Question: Did DOJ and FBI prosecute those other two FBI sources? No.

So, last year, I asked Director Patel about the initial FBI 1023 document that Director Wray was supposed to investigate. I asked whether an investigation was carried out into the alleged records. Patel answered this way:

Not to my knowledge, Mr. Chairman.

I am not saying the allegations are true. I just want to know if the investigation has been carried out. The Hill failed to mention any of that very important context.

The Hill also failed to take into account some of my whistleblowers. They failed to take into account that some of my whistleblowers have faced years of retaliation and face serious abuse by officials who have since been fired.

Wrongdoing should be punished. It is called accountability. And I have also said lower-level personnel who appropriately follow directives without violating procedures ought to have that taken into consideration.

Now, The Hill should endeavor to report on the heroic and brave efforts that whistleblowers have undertaken to expose government abuse, instead of providing a forum for government agents to smear them.

To my patriotic whistleblowers, I want them to know that this Senator's work will continue in full force.

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. 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.

RECONCILIATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, Republicans still haven't released the

text of their radical MAGA reconciliation wish list, just hours before we are expected to vote on it.

Where the hell is the bill? Where the hell is the bill? We were supposed to get it yesterday before lunch—no bill. We were supposed to get it yesterday afternoon—no bill. We were supposed to get it before dinnertime—no bill. We were supposed to get it around midnight—still no bill. And now it is Thursday morning—still no bill.

Why don't we have a bill? I will tell you why. The Republican Party is in complete disarray. They are in complete meltdown. They can't come to an agreement with each other. They are angry with each other.

Why? They are pulled between two poles, and they can't decide which way to go to. The first pole is the pole they should go to: Help the American people. Help the American people with higher costs, whether it is groceries or gasoline or housing or healthcare; work with Democrats to help get those costs down. That is where they should be. And they should also be with us when we want to end the chaos—the chaos on the streets of our cities—by having ICE and Border Patrol have reasonable guardrails so they don't kill Americans on the streets. And, of course, end the corruption. They should be angry, as we are, as the American people are, at the corruption that is coming out of the White House.

So on the one pole is to work for the American people, but on the other pole is Donald Trump, who is exactly the opposite of what Americans want, and Republicans know it. Trump doesn't give a damn about costs. He has already said that. Pay more for gasoline? He says: I don't care. The American people can pay more for groceries, can pay more for housing. He doesn't care about that. He is a billionaire. He doesn't go shop for groceries. He doesn't go get gas at the pump.

Chaos—he loves chaos. His Iran war is one of the most chaotic foreign misadventures America has ever gone on, and it gets worse all the time, as gas prices go above \$4.50. I heard today it is above \$4 in every State.

And he is the originator—the chief cook and bottle washer—of corruption. He comes up with corrupt scheme after corrupt scheme to benefit himself, his family, his cronies, criminals whom he has encouraged to act criminally. He is the originator of the corruption.

The ballroom. They have become ballroom Republicans, the Republican Senators.

The MAGA slush fund to be given out to cronies—probably, a lot of it would end up in Trump's pocket or his kids' pockets. Your dollars, American taxpayers.

So they are stuck. They are sort of like that cartoon, the old Popeye cartoon, where Olive Oyl is pulled in one direction by Popeye and the other by Bluto. She keeps going back and forth. That is who they are. They don't know what to do.

And so there is no bill. That is why there is no bill. They are stuck. They are flummoxed.

The leader, Leader THUNE, has two choices: Side with Donald Trump and show the American people you are totally, totally out of touch with what they need, or side with the American people, work with us, and get Donald Trump furious at you. And you see what happens when Donald Trump is furious at Republicans. We could ask a couple of Senators what happens when they don't side with Donald Trump.

So they are stuck. They are just stuck, and it is a spectacle that the American people are witnessing.

And more and more Americans, every day, say the Republican Party—many former Republicans say: The Republican Party I used to know was so different.

It is so deranged by Donald Trump that they can't be with them anymore. And that is why we Democrats look like we are in good shape in the House and the Senate, as we move forward to November.

Republicans—let's go over what they want in their bill. Republicans want to spend tens of billions of American tax dollars, but we still don't know what exactly we are voting on in mere hours. We do know that this bill won't include a single penny to make life more affordable—the costs issue, which is No. 1 in the eyes of the American people.

The American people don't need to see the bill text to know where Senate Republicans stand: with Donald Trump, right now, not working families.

I am pleased a small number of Republicans are starting to wake up to how egregious Trump's billion-dollar, taxpayer-funded ballroom is, but this MAGA majority has made it abundantly clear they are willing and eager to fund Trump's vanity project at the taxpayers' expense.

Make no mistake, if ballroom funding doesn't make it into the Republican bill, it is not because of a Republican conscience; it is because Democrats stopped them. They tried to sneak it in. They were caught red-handed.

Oh, it is only for security. It is only for this. It is only for that.

They are stuck. No one wants the ballroom except Donald Trump, and they are quaking in their boots to oppose him. And when they oppose him, they are worried about electoral consequences, as we have seen in the last week.

Were it not for Democrats fighting this ballroom every step of the way, Republicans would have wasted a billion taxpayer dollars for Trump's palace in a heartbeat. Republicans are foolish if they think that they can distance themselves from this boondoggle, because, no matter what is in the bill, Democrats will force Republicans to vote again and again on their outrageous priorities: Trump's ballroom, Trump's insurrectionist slush fund, Trump's costly war.

Americans don't want this bill, even without Trump's vanity project—not when it provides \$70 billion to Trump's masked agents who sow chaos in the streets. It is absurd. It is absurd to ask Americans, who are struggling to make ends meet, to shell out another \$70 billion to ICE and Border Patrol when these rogue Agencies are sitting on \$100 billion from the Big Beautiful Bill.

But the costs of this war, which the American people are opposed to, and the costs of many other things might have to be funded out of this in the next few months, and so they don't want to take the money for ICE or for Border Patrol when there is \$100 billion sitting there. Instead, they hold up the budget. Instead, they tell Democrats there is no reform. They tell that to the American people as well.

As Americans burn through their savings, Republicans want to expand their nest egg for Trump's private militia. Every vote and every amendment we bring to the floor today will show that Democrats are standing up for the American people and Republicans are selling out to Trump. Again, the contrast is glaring: Who is on the side of the American people for lower costs and for less chaos and to end the corruption? And who is on the side of Donald Trump, master of corruption, originator of corruption in certain new, novel, and disgusting ways, as well as somebody who doesn't give a damn about the costs that the American people are suffering through?

On the slush fund, Donald Trump's nearly \$2 billion MAGA slush fund is the most blatant act of corruption in American history. People are aghast. Jaws drop all over the Nation when they hear what Trump wants to do: sue the government for \$10 billion—that is him personally suing—then settle with himself and use that money for his cronies and Lord knows what else. As I said, I believe a lot of it will end up in the pockets of Trump, his family, his cronies.

Trump sues Trump. Trump settles with Trump. Trump decides which Trump allies get paid. It is absolutely depraved.

It turns out that "The Art of the Deal" isn't very hard when you are making a deal with yourself and forcing Americans to foot the bill. Let's see what his next book says about that one.

Trump acted as the plaintiff, defendant, and judge, all at once, to set up this slush fund. And while Trump was at it, he shielded his family from ever having to face a tax audit again.

Can you believe this, America? In this bill, Trump can never be prosecuted, investigated for tax fraud, even though I and so many others wouldn't trust him with his tax returns for a minute.

Trump doesn't have to pay his taxes, but he is more than happy to put your tax dollars in the pockets of his cronies, criminals, and cop-killing January 6 insurrectionists.

Republicans are going to have to vote on that. Are you going to prevent any of this money from going to people who hurt cops, who were prosecuted for hurting cops? Trump's own Attorney General, Pam Bondi, instituted a rule last year explicitly prohibiting these types of corrupt payments, and Democrats will not let Trump get away with this grift—this grift of epic proportion.

That is why the very first amendment I will offer during vote-arama will be to block this slush fund—all of it. Republicans will have to answer on my amendment: Are they for the slush fund or are they against it? Do Republicans want to lower Americans' costs or sell them out to give payments to violent criminals? Do Republicans stand with the American people or with Donald Trump?

Americans want to know. Democrats will force Republicans to answer.

COST OF LIVING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on costs, ahead of the Memorial Day weekend, Americans drive to the grocery store and can't believe the prices they are seeing for beef, for propane, for the gas to get there. It is hard to enjoy a barbecue when rising costs are stretching your budget to the breaking point.

Just look at costs for the menu compared to last year: a pound of beef, up nearly 20 percent; hot dogs, 12 percent; a rack of ribs, 8 percent; buns, up 20 percent; ketchup, up 14 percent; watermelon, 17 percent; lettuce, 19 percent; tomatoes, up 22 percent. And the price of gasoline is up 42 percent compared to this time last year, thanks to Trump's disastrous war with Iran.

At a time when Americans should be gathering together in celebration, they are getting crushed by surging costs. And Republicans don't include a single bent penny in their reconciliation bill to bring down prices—outrageous, clueless, and it will come back to bite Republicans.

While Republicans have been working around the clock to line Trump's pockets, Democrats are fighting every second of the day to lower Americans' costs.

And since millions of Americans won't be able to grill this weekend, Democrats are going to grill Republicans over and over again during the vote-arama with amendments to lower Americans' costs.

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

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