

ECONOMY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on costs. Last week we got new inflation numbers showing that prices are at their highest level in years. Families are saving less as they struggle to make ends meet. Americans are working harder, paying more, and getting less.

That is Trump's economy at work.

From Trump's mouth to the American people's ears, he said:

I don't think about Americans' financial situation.

All Trump thinks about is building his golden ballroom, putting his name on a massive arch, lining his pocket with taxpayer dollars, and slapping his face onto a \$250 bill.

None of that lowers costs; none of that helps working families. All Trump's vanity projects do is waste time and money, and our Republican friends seem to go along with almost all of it—maybe even all of it.

Meanwhile, two-thirds of Americans—two-thirds—say they have had to cut back on groceries the past few months because of skyrocketing costs. This comes as new data shows household electricity prices have spiked by 18 percent since Trump took office. With the hottest months now upon us—summer season—rising energy costs will only further strain families' pocketbooks.

The average home cooling costs could reach nearly \$800 this summer, an 8.5-percent increase over last year and 37 percent more than in 2020.

A poll over the weekend found that 53 percent of all Americans say the current cost of living is the worst they have ever seen. What happened to lowering costs on day one, which Trump so proudly proclaimed?

And, of course, where are the Senate Republicans? Instead of listening to the American people, working with Democrats to bring costs down, Republicans are working around the clock to aid and abet Trump's corruption, to build his vanity projects on the taxpayers' dime, and funnel tens of billions of dollars to his masked agents who are already flushed with cash.

Americans are screaming for relief, and all they hear back from Senate Republicans is silence—complete, complicit silence.

IRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the Iran war, once again the ongoing fighting in Iran has blown holes in Trump's claim that victory is at hand. Over the weekend, Trump said he is "in no hurry to end the war in Iran."

No hurry? Tell that to our troops who are in harm's way every second this war continues, including those who were fired upon in Kuwait just this morning. Tell that to their families.

Really, no hurry? I will tell you who is in a hurry for this blunder to end: the American people who are getting

crushed by record gas prices at the pump. They are in a hurry.

Trump has proven over and over again that he is incapable of getting our country out of this mess. Congress needs to step up.

Democrats and a handful of Republicans came together before Memorial Day to advance a War Powers Resolution to withdraw our troops from hostility with Iran. We will not stop forcing votes to end this war until this disastrous war is over once and for all.

Trump and his allies in the Senate may not see the urgency of ending this war, but Democrats and the American people do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

NOMINATION OF KATHLEEN LANE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the Senate will soon vote on the nomination of Kathleen Lane, President Trump's nominee to serve as a lifetime appointment and judge on the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana.

There are more than 3,000 licensed attorneys in the State of Montana. You would believe that the White House in finding a Federal judge for a lifetime appointment would be able to find among those 3,000-plus licensed attorneys in Montana one with experience having served as a judge.

Instead, President Trump has selected Ms. Lane. Ms. Lane is not remotely qualified to serve as a district court judge in the Federal system. That is not my opinion; that is the official finding by the American Bar Association.

Ms. Lane is the first judicial nominee to receive a "not qualified" rating from the ABA during President Trump's second term. As the American Bar Association explained in finding this rating, it is "based on issues with her experience, which is an important component of competence."

The organization found that Ms. Lane had failed to gain "substantial courtroom and trial experience in the less than nine years since she was admitted to the bar."

As the ABA detailed:

Ms. Lane [has] never tried a case as lead counsel, whether civil or criminal.

Moreover, as the ABA noted:

[I]t appears she has never conducted a direct examination [in a courtroom], picked a jury, or offered an opening statement or a closing argument.

Putting this lady on the bench for a lifetime appointment to the Federal court would be like selecting an umpire for tonight's Major League Baseball game who has never even worked a Little League game.

Ms. Lane's experience is disqualifying. Now my Republican colleagues may claim that the ABA, American Bar Association, is a partisan organization, but over the past year, the ABA has rated dozens of Trump nominees "qualified" or "well qualified." Ms.

Lane is the only one who has received a "not qualified" rating.

Not only has her legal career been extremely brief, but it has also been extremely partisan. Ms. Lane currently works at the Republican National Committee, which President Trump highlighted when he announced her nomination.

She certainly may not have courtroom experience, but she has got experience at the so-called MAGA think tank.

He claimed, the President claimed, that Ms. Lane "played a critical role in stopping Voter Fraud . . . at the Republican National Committee."

He believes that qualifies her for a lifetime appointment to the Federal court.

But before she went to work for the Republican National Committee, Ms. Lane repeatedly chose to litigate politically charged issues and worked to limit women's rights, voting rights, and the rights of LGBTQ Americans.

Ms. Lane is not the person for this job. She is too ideological, too inexperienced for the role to which she has been nominated.

I urge my colleagues to oppose her nomination.

ANTI-WEAPONIZATION FUND

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on a separate topic, today is June 1, the arbitrary deadline President Trump imposed on the congressional Republicans to send their partisan funding bill to his desk for signature.

So why aren't the Republican colleagues headed to the White House today for a flashy bill signing ceremony to fund more abuses by the ICE Agency? I will tell you. Because 2 weeks ago, Senate Republicans left town after an internal revolt over the President's so-called Anti-Weaponization Fund.

Nearly \$1.8 billion—\$1.8 billion. That is even more than the ballroom—\$1.8 billion for the slush fund for the President's cronies and allies.

Well, who would be eligible for any part of the \$1.8 billion fund? People like Brandon Fellows. This may be a new name to you, but we are becoming more familiar with him.

He was pardoned by President Trump, a full and unconditional Presidential pardon, for being one of the January 6 insurrectionists who was convicted and sentenced on felony and misdemeanor charges for climbing an exterior wall of the Capitol, entering the building through a broken window.

Well, time has passed. Has he shown any remorse since he was convicted of that crime? No. He still believes President Trump's Big Lie about the 2020 election and the conspiracy theory that January 6—which he is on video participating in—was a setup, entrapment.

I remember that day very well. I was seated here. Vice President Pence was presiding over the Senate. We were officially counting the ballots as to who

actually won the election in 2020. All of a sudden, a little after 2, those doors opened and policemen came in—I assumed they were policemen, they had on plain clothes—and went up to the Vice President on the podium, whispered in his ear, and pulled him off the podium quickly through that door. We sat here wondering what was going on. There was a big demonstration going on outside. Nobody knew what was happening. They were making noise, but that is not unusual in the Capitol.

At that point, a member of the Capitol Police, one of the officers who protected you in the Gallery and me today when we entered the building, came and stood before us and said: Stay where you are. Stay in your seats. This is going to be a safe room. This mob that came up from the White House is going to be stopped. Stay where you are.

So we all sat here not quite sure what to do next. Ten minutes later, the same policeman came up and said: New orders. Leave immediately. Evacuate through this door, and we will follow you.

So we headed out, all of the Senators off the floor and the staff as well, to an adjoining building.

What happened next? The mob then broke down the doors and came into the Capitol, came into the Senate Chamber and the House Chamber, rifled through our desks, aped for pictures in front of one another, and basically threatened people who were here that they had to leave. That is what actually happened.

Now, we know that happened because it was on a videotape. We saw it. America saw it. Every minute of it followed carefully. And yet we actually have people today who deny it ever happened.

If you are a student of history, you know that in the Soviet empire, they did that regularly. If history became inconvenient, they rewrote it, wrote another book, condemned people for saying the old way was the right way. That is what is happening here.

Well, this fellow Brandon Fellows was one of the people who broke into the Capitol through a broken window. He still believes that Trump won the 2020 election. He still believes that conspiracy theory about January 6, despite—it actually never happened is what he says, which he is on video participating in.

He likes to spend his free time dressing up as an ICE agent and encouraging others to do the same to terrorize immigrants. How much is Mr. Fellows seeking from the anti-weaponization \$2 billion slush fund of the President? He thinks his inconvenience that he encountered is worth \$30 million Federal tax dollars—\$30 million.

And we can expect droves of other January 6 insurrectionists to also seek these cash rewards. Even those who continue to threaten our communities by committing more crimes, many of them of the January 6 mob that

mobbed this Chamber, are back in jail for committing another crime after President Trump's pardon, ranging from conspiracy to murder, to child sex abuse, and exploitation.

Let me say it in a different way: While American families are struggling to afford gas for their cars, put food on their tables, pay their utility bills—thanks to Trump's tariffs and war of choice in Iran—the President wants to hand lofty payouts to his political buddies and the criminals who attacked our democracy at his request. It reeks of corruption.

I will also note, as part of the settlement, the IRS is permanently barred from auditing past tax returns of President Trump, his family, and related companies. Get that? Ever play Monopoly? Remember that get-out-of-jail card you had hung onto? President Trump wanted a get-out-of-jail card from the Federal Government, his government, that he would never be prosecuted for tax fraud—never. It included his family, his colleagues, his business buddies, and friends. That was part of this deal in creating this slush fund. Is this America? Is this a Monopoly game? And if it is, it is embarrassing—permanently barred from auditing past tax returns of Donald Trump, his family, and related companies. Taken altogether, this is deeply disturbing.

Senate Democrats will continue to fight this unprecedented and unacceptable \$1.8 billion slush fund for January 6 insurrectionists and Trump loyalists and will work to halt the flow of taxpayer dollars to Trump's massive deportation campaign while standing ready to have a serious bipartisan negotiation about the need for reforms of Trump's immigration system.

If this partisan reconciliation bill ever sees the light of day, we will put Republicans on record by votes on this floor as to whether or not they accept this as a legitimate exercise of government function. Will Republican colleagues stand by the Constitution and the laws of our country, or will they join the President in this folly? I hope time will tell that they will join us in a bipartisan effort to stop the slush fund.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). The Senator from Kansas.

NOMINATION OF JEFFREY M. KUHLMAN

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, the Senate will shortly consider—in fact, tomorrow we will vote on cloture and the confirmation of the nomination of—Jeffrey Kuhlman to be a judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas. I rise this evening to urge my colleagues to support his confirmation.

During my time in the Senate, I have had the opportunity to vote on the confirmation of three current Kansas district court judges. With each nominee, I weigh the candidate's temperament,

principles, experience, and commitment to administer equal justice under the law.

In addition to the three current court judges in Kansas, there are three additional vacancies in the district courts of Kansas. Mr. Kuhlman is the first of the three Kansans the Senate will be considering to fill those vacancies.

I certainly had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Kuhlman. I encouraged the White House to make his nomination to be a judge, and I was impressed. I would not have done that but for my sincere and real impression of his expertise, his legal experience, and his commitment to serving the people in Kansas.

I have always had a desire to see, as growing up in a small town in rural Kansas, that there might be Federal judges who could come from small towns, and I have always been looking for someone who practices law in a small town in our State that has Federal court experience.

Mr. Kuhlman is a native of western Kansas. He grew up in a county-seat town called Ness City, not too far from my hometown, and it has a population of just a little over a thousand. And maybe this doesn't matter to everyone—or to most people—but I want people who grew up in that manner to know that there is a future, that there are things that they can do, and that there is not a handicap to be a smalltown, rural Kansas kid.

In helping select candidates for the White House, I had the goal of making certain we selected qualified candidates from across the State, but I also was always interested in “Could there be a rural person?”

Jeffrey earned his bachelor's degree in history from Kansas State University before receiving his law degree from the Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University.

After law school, Mr. Kuhlman returned to Kansas and was selected to serve a 2-year clerkship for who soon became Chief Judge Eric F. Melgren. In that role, he gained experience. He gained valuable and hands-on experience across all phases of Federal litigation.

Jeffrey then entered private practice as a litigation associate at a Wichita firm, the Hinkle Law Firm.

Mr. Kuhlman now has been a partner at Watkins Calcara in Great Bend, where his practice focuses on civil litigation, including municipal law, constitutional matters, commercial disputes, and personal injury cases.

Mr. Kuhlman and his wife Lauren—who is originally from Albert, an even smaller town—are raising their five young children in Great Bend, another small town in Kansas.

Mr. Kuhlman has demonstrated strong commitment to the rule of law, a deep respect for the Constitution, and a clear dedication to serving the people of Kansas. His experience both inside and outside the courtroom has prepared him well for the responsibilities