

that farmers now have to spend at least \$350 more per day just for a full run of one of their tractors. They use a lot of fuel and it is diesel fuel and diesel is expensive. And by the way, diesel prices already make up more than 60 percent of the fuel costs for farm operations.

Lindsey Brand of the Northeastern Organic Farming Association of Vermont said it best:

Diesel fuel powers some farm equipment and the trucks to transport food. We've heard from some farms that distribute regionally that trucking costs have doubled since the Strait closed.

The war has also surged the price of fertilizer—including urea, which is what most farmers use for their crops—to 27 percent higher than it was before the war.

No matter which way you look at it, the war in Iran has been a disaster on all fronts. It has nowhere near come close to achieving its goals, and there are no negotiations going on. Essentially, there is a dance. It is about trying to do face-saving for Trump. But also, economically, it has had an immediate and wicked impact on families that are already struggling to afford essentials as a result of the affordability crisis. You add this to the trade war, to the tariffs, to the loss of markets, and it is a grim situation.

We can change it. We have got to end the war. And we have got a dilemma here. The President actually does want a negotiated outcome, but his partner in this war, President Netanyahu, wants to intensify the war.

We should end this war through diplomacy. The goals we seek will not be accomplished through military means. They must be achieved through diplomacy.

We have to come to grips with the reality that this war continues to escalate the incredible pressure that our families, our farmers, our industries, our small businesses are facing. We have got to bring it to an end. We have got to get inflation down. We have got to make America more affordable.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the previously scheduled rollcall vote begin forthwith.

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

VOTE ON POWELL NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Powell nomination?

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 168 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Armstrong	Fischer	Moran
Banks	Grassley	Moreno
Barrasso	Hagerty	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Curtis	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	McCormick	Young
Ernst	Moody	

NAYS—44

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Reed
Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Blunt Rochester	Kelly	Schatz
Booker	Kim	Schiff
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Coons	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Cortez Masto	Lujan	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Markey	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warnock
Fetterman	Murphy	Warren
Gallego	Murray	Welch
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NOT VOTING—6

Bennet	Graham	Smith
Blackburn	Shaheen	Tillis

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative 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. 765, Brock Dahl, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

John Thune, Ted Budd, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Chuck Grassley, Katie Boyd

Britt, Roger Marshall, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Tim Sheehy, Rick Scott of Florida, Mike Rounds, Tommy Tuberville, Bernie Moreno, Tim Scott of South Carolina, John Barrasso, Steve Daines, Shelley Moore Capito.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Brock Dahl, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 169 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Armstrong	Fischer	Moran
Banks	Grassley	Moreno
Barrasso	Hagerty	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shaheen
Cramer	Lee	Sheehy
Crapo	Lummis	Sullivan
Cruz	Marshall	Thune
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young

NAYS—44

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Reed
Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Blunt Rochester	Kelly	Schatz
Booker	Kim	Schiff
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Coons	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Cortez Masto	Lujan	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Markey	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warnock
Fetterman	Murphy	Warren
Gallego	Murray	Welch
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NOT VOTING—5

Bennet	Graham	Tillis
Blackburn	Smith	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 44. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Brock Dahl, of Maryland, to

be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, notwithstanding rule XXII, the postcloture time with respect to Executive Calendar No. 765 be expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, tomorrow; finally, that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. Mr. President, this weekend, my eldest son Theodore—Teddy—is going to graduate from college.

Over the past couple of decades, I have been lucky to serve as mayor of Denver, as Governor of Colorado, and now as a U.S. Senator, but the greatest title of all is "Dad." Teddy and now my 3½-year-old son Jack give my life and my public service real meaning.

Like millions of parents, I catch myself thinking about them and their future constantly. Will Teddy's generation be able to afford a home? Will our healthcare system still be a broken mess when they have to take their own kids to the hospital? Will the hiking trails I took Teddy on as a boy still be there when he has children? These aren't just my worries; they are the worries of many Coloradans.

Americans were right to be frustrated before President Trump took office. Our country was recovering from a global pandemic. Costs were too high. Help was too slow. So when President Trump came along and made promises—no more expensive wars, lower costs on day one, a government that finally works for working people—Americans took the deal. But President Trump didn't just fail to keep his promises, he broke them, and now Americans are paying the price.

The President promised no more expensive, deadly wars. Instead, we are

stuck with a war in Iran with no exit, no strategy, no end in sight. Every time you fill up your gas tank or buy your groceries, you are paying the price.

The President promised lower costs on day one. A year and a half later, household debt has hit a record-breaking \$18.8 trillion—\$18.8 trillion in terms of household debt. The average American household has \$105,000 in consumer debt, and families are spending money they don't have on necessities they can't go without.

The President promised a government that worked for Americans. Instead, he gutted Medicaid and our healthcare coverage. He slashed food assistance. He dismantled programs designed precisely for moments like these when families are already underwater. It is as if President Trump started a wildfire for the American people and then took away every bucket of water.

I hear from Coloradans every single day, and for years—long before this administration—they have been telling me the same three things: I can't afford to get sick. I can't afford my rent. I am scared about the kind of world my children will be inheriting.

While President Trump is busy spending trillions on bombs, ballrooms, and billionaires, my colleagues and I are trying to solve real problems—the ones Coloradans tell us about every day.

When Coloradans told us they couldn't make the rent, we got to work. Over my first 5½ years in the Senate, we secured over \$800 million from the bipartisan infrastructure law and congressionally directed spending for affordable housing in Colorado. That money turned a Durango Best Western into apartments. It delivered badly needed workforce housing in Alamosa, CO. It helped convert the Stay Inn in Denver into housing for the homeless.

We have heard from Coloradans who have risked their lives to afford healthcare—stretching their prescriptions, skipping the ER, and avoiding pricey ambulance rides—so when we wrote the Inflation Reduction Act, we allowed Medicare to negotiate drug prices for the first time ever, and we capped the cost of insulin at 35 bucks.

Americans couldn't afford their premiums, so we expanded the Affordable Care Act tax credits, which helped lower costs by \$2,400 a year for millions of Americans. That is \$200 a month.

Across the State, we met with communities ravaged by drought and wildfire. We knew we needed to adapt to our hot, dry future. We need to do a better job of adapting to that hotter and dryer future, so we passed the Inflation Reduction Act, the single largest climate investment in human history—\$4 billion for the Colorado River Basin, hundreds of billions of dollars in clean energy that created jobs and lowered energy costs. Then we created the Colorado River Caucus in the Senate to

help conserve the West's most significant and scarce resource.

That is what governing actually looks like. It is putting Coloradans at the center of everything we do. And when this administration threatened to take it all away, we fought at every turn. When they slashed \$1 trillion from Americans' healthcare to pay for tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans and corporations, we refused to fund their corrupt government. When they moved to sell off 3 million acres of our public lands to pay for tax breaks for the billionaires, we stopped them in their tracks because Colorado's public lands are not for sale—not now, not ever. And just last week, when they tried to pass a taxpayer-funded slush fund for election criminals, we stood up.

Time and time again, we fought this administration—not over politics; we fight because Colorado's pain should never be their profit.

Good government isn't flashy. Good government is built on thankless hours spent fighting to keep people at the table without bullying or bribing, without compromising our values to get there. That is the only way we are going to pull Americans out of this mess. It starts by helping Americans get their heads above water and then building a country that actually works for them.

We will end the tariffs and the war that are driving up costs for everybody, because a family in Grand Junction shouldn't be paying high prices at the grocery store for this administration's reckless policy decisions.

We need to restore the healthcare this administration cut. Then we need to go further: We need to get and fully operate universal health coverage.

I recently spoke with a Coloradan whose husband put off chemotherapy so she could get lifesaving surgery. They couldn't afford for both of them to have health insurance in both cases, so it became a tradeoff that no family should be making. No family—not just in Colorado but anywhere in the country—should be making that kind of a tradeoff in the wealthiest country in the world.

This administration told Americans you can't lower costs and protect our resources. Their bright solution? Send energy costs through the roof while the Colorado River runs dry. That is not a tradeoff; it is a failure. The only way forward is a clean energy economy that lowers your bills and keeps Colorado's farms, forests, and rivers healthy for the next generation.

This weekend, my son is going to cross the stage and start his adult life. Back in Denver, Jack is probably outside somewhere covered in dirt—after all, his first word was "dirt." The reason I believe my kids are going to be OK is the same reason I believe yours will be too: America never gives up. From Gettysburg to Selma, from Ludlow to Minneapolis—each time Americans face adversity, we grow stronger.