

rural life, food production, and the cultural roots of American agriculture. They complete hands on activities and earn a badge as they “become a proud steward of our farming heritage.”

Monthly “remember and reminisce” program: Hosted at the Traer Historical Museum which highlights the life of “Tama Jim” Wilson, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture from 1897 to 1913.

AG Adventure tour loops: Provide itineraries and maps for “ag adventure” tours to visit numerous sites.

Iowa Eats Food & Drink Festival: Event in Waterloo that connects farmers, producers, and culinary professionals to the public.

Partnerships with local historical societies and museums for other events.

Mr. GRASSLEY. As a lifelong family farmer, I think it is important that we celebrate this history that—there is a lot of history, but Silos & Smokestacks exemplifies in Iowa all connected with American rural and American agriculture.

The fuel you put in your car and the meals on your table are everyday commodities that are made possible by the hard work of family farmers. I always like to remind people that 2 percent of the people in this country produce the food for the other 98 percent and that one-third of that production is exported just to show you how a small group of people lead to the social cohesion of the United States because we don’t have food riots and because food is the backbone of our national security.

From the beginning of our Nation, when farms were where most Americans lived and worked, and through the Green Revolution of Dr. Norman Borlaug and the development of modern agriculture practices, Silos & Smokestacks preserves and displays Iowa’s rich agricultural heritage.

For the last decade, Cara has been dedicated to advancing the missions of Silos & Smokestacks. Once again, I want to thank Cara for her hard work and wish her very well in retirement.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 7147

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The leader is correct.

The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7147) making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

Mr. THUNE. In order to place the bill on the calendar, under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, on Friday, the Senate passed five of the remaining six appropriations bills: Defense appropriations; Transportation, Housing and Urban Development; Financial Services and General Government; Labor-Health and Human Services; Education; and National Security and Department of State—in all, five appropriations bills that fund all of those various programs and Agencies.

It has been a long road to get here, with the process most notably interrupted by the Democrats’ 43-day shutdown in the fall. But I am proud to be able to say that the Senate has passed 11 full-year appropriations bills.

When I became leader, I made it very clear that I wanted a return to regular order consideration of appropriations bills.

Too many times the Senate has resorted to long-term continuing resolutions in omnibus bills written behind closed doors. That is not how I wanted to do things, and I am proud that, despite some hiccups along the way, we have returned the lead to the committees and have now considered 11 of the 12 individual bills on the Senate floor.

The advantages of a Member-driven process are myriad. First and foremost, it empowers Senators of both parties to make their voices and the voices of their constituents heard, and it provides for genuinely serious consideration of spending priorities.

This year’s appropriations bills together spend less than if we had simply extended current spending levels under a continuing resolution. We are saving taxpayer dollars by doing full-year appropriations bills.

We are also supporting our national defense. Endless continuing resolutions aren’t good for any part of the government, but they are especially dangerous for our military readiness.

Under CRs—or continuing resolutions—the military can be prevented from starting essential new projects. Current projects can face delays and cost overruns, and the appropriate resources may not always be available for operations.

Funding the military through the yearly Defense appropriation bill instead of through CRs is essential, and I am very pleased that we passed the full-year bill on Friday.

Before I close, I want to extend my gratitude to Appropriations Committee Chair COLLINS and Vice Chair MURRAY and all the members of the Senate Appropriations Committee for their tireless work this year.

Appropriations work is demanding, and I appreciate all they have done to make it possible for us to pass 11 of the 12 fiscal year 2026 bills.

Now, on that 12th bill, we had a bipartisan agreement on the Homeland

Security appropriations bill that included funding for deescalation training for Immigration and Customs Enforcement as well as body cams for ICE officers.

Nevertheless, Republicans agreed to Democrats’ request for additional time to allow for additional consideration of this bill before final passage, but any conversation—any conversation—has to include a discussion of how to make it safer for our Federal law enforcement agents to effectively carry out their duties.

We need to address not only issues like increased training for ICE officers but things like preventing the constant harassment—and worse—that officers have faced for simply trying to do their jobs.

The President’s border czar Tom Homan recently traveled to Minneapolis at the President’s request, and his efforts have gone a long way to restoring order in that city and ensuring immigration operations can be carried out safely.

One thing he is trying to accomplish is increased cooperation between local law enforcement and ICE. That is another thing the Democrats should be willing to address in the coming days.

It is notable how much more peaceful things have been in cities where local law enforcement has been authorized to cooperate with ICE. It is time to bring an end to the dangerous practice of local jurisdictions refusing to cooperate with Federal law enforcement.

So I hope there will be a set of issues like those that Senate Democrats and the administration can find consensus around. But one thing is clear, if the Democrats’ goal is simply to make it harder to detain and deport dangerous illegal aliens, then they will find no interest on this side of the aisle. I hope that is not the case because the stakes are high.

Republicans provided for ICE enforcement in the Working Families Tax Cuts, but the Homeland Security bill funds a number of other critical Agencies, including the TSA, the Coast Guard, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Agencies that we cannot leave behind. We need to give these Agencies the security of a full-year funding bill without delay.

I, once again, thank Senate appropriators for helping us to get to this point, and I look forward to finishing our 2026 appropriations work in the coming days.

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. 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.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, so last week, the Senate did its job to fund 96 percent of the government, while splitting the DHS bill from the rest of the funding package so we can rein in ICE and end the violence. Now, it is the House's turn to do its job, but a band of MAGA radicals want to highjack government funding to push an outlandishly toxic bill called the SAVE Act that would disenfranchise millions of American citizens.

Just a few hours ago, Donald Trump said he wants to nationalize elections around the country. That is what Trump said—you think he believes in democracy? He said, "We want to take over . . . the Republicans ought to nationalize the voting."

Does Donald Trump need a copy of the Constitution? What he is saying is outlandishly illegal. Once again, the President is talking no differently than a dictator who wants elections in America to be as legitimate as elections in countries like Venezuela.

And make no mistake, one of the tools to nationalize elections is precisely the SAVE Act that some Republicans are pushing in the House. I want to be very clear: The SAVE Act is dead on arrival in the Senate, and every single Senate Democrat will vote against any bill—any bill—that contains it.

It is outrageous that House Republicans would even consider putting in the SAVE Act in legislation to fund the government.

Democrats have been clear for months. We will never in a million years consider this deeply restrictive and overreaching piece of legislation. Republicans who are pushing for the SAVE Act are trying to kill the funding bill and prolong this shutdown. That is all they want. They want to kill the bill, kill the funding bill, and have a prolonged shutdown.

Speaker JOHNSON should tell these SAVE Act Republicans to stand down, or else this shutdown is on the Republicans' shoulders.

Now, as for the SAVE Act itself, it has nothing to do with protecting our elections and everything to do with federalizing voter suppression. The SAVE Act is nothing more than Jim Crow 2.0. If the SAVE Act were to become law, online registration, registration by mail, and registration drives become a thing of the past. If you are one of tens of millions of Americans who does not have access to your birth certificate or if you are one of the 50 percent of Americans who don't have a passport, the SAVE Act could make it impossible for you to participate in elections. It would lead to massive purges that inevitably remove legitimate American citizens who have a

right to vote from voter rolls. And even married couples aren't spared from the SAVE Act. If you get married and you change your last name, you too would be at risk under the SAVE Act of getting booted off the voter rolls.

This is just an outrageous piece of legislation. It is turning the clock back 100 years. It comes out of some right-wing brain that believes that certain people really shouldn't vote, that some citizens are more valuable than others.

So let me be clear as I can: The SAVE Act is dead on arrival in the Senate.

Hear that, House rightwingers? It ain't happening. Anyone who is trying to push the SAVE Act as part of the government funding is pining for a shutdown.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND
SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now as for reining in ICE, right now Americans from all walks of life—left, right, and center—agree that the status quo with ICE cannot continue and Congress needs to make a change. What is happening in Minneapolis and other cities around the country is not law and order. It is thuggery—thuggery.

Here is what former border control head Greg Bovino said recently in a video that circulated online:

Arrest as many people [who] touch you as you want to. Those are general orders, all the way to the very top.

That is the rhetoric of police states. That is precisely the abuse that Congress needs to stop. That is why we were so intent on splitting off the Homeland Security bill from the rest of the funding bills, so we could focus on it, so we could rein it in—rein in ICE—and end the violence.

Republicans need to take a good look at what is happening around the country and realize, too, that it is time to rein in ICE's abuses. We should be going after "the worst of the worst," as the administration says, instead of unleashing fear and chaos on everybody else.

What Democrats want is exceedingly reasonable. We need to end roving patrols. That means arrest warrants and ending racial profiling.

Second, we need real accountability, having ICE abide by the same rules as local police do, including independent investigations of ICE.

And, third, masks need to come off. Cameras need to stay on. Officers need visible ID. No secret police.

These changes are as common sense as it gets. There is nothing insane, as some Republicans think, asking Federal agents to respect the Fourth Amendment. It does not criminalize law enforcement to ask them to identify themselves and follow the same basic code as other law enforcement.

This idea that JOHNSON has that ICE people should be able to wear masks—police officers don't wear masks all across the country. And if anyone

needs to be identified, it is these abusive thugs who are in the Border Patrol, who are in ICE.

If Republicans can't come to the table on these very sensible changes, then the violence we see happening around the country is going to continue.

EPSTEIN FILES

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, on Epstein, the only real conclusion we can make about the latest release of the Epstein files is this: The DOJ cares more about protecting Donald Trump than it cares about protecting Epstein's victims.

These new releases expose the identity of nearly 100 victims in over 1,000 instances. This is not mere sloppiness. This is wanton negligence that puts the safety of these victims at risk. It is one thing for DOJ to miss a couple of redactions here or there—and that is still bad—but to fail thousands of times to protect people's identities begs the question of whether this was intentional.

And, look, the DOJ's failure to protect the identities of the victims is bad enough, but what makes it even more heinous is how far the DOJ went to protect Donald Trump during these releases. The DOJ took down pages and pages of documents that were full of vulgar accusations against the President. And when they got caught, they put the documents back up without redacting the information of the victims.

If DOJ cared half as much about protecting Epstein's victims as they cared about shielding Donald Trump, then maybe the public would trust them more. But right now, there is zero trust that the DOJ is being on the level.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority whip.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND
SECURITY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last month, America watched in horror as Federal immigration officers shot and killed, in two separate incidents, U.S. citizens as part of the Trump administration's immigration enforcement operations in Minneapolis. Renee Good and Alex Pretti should still be with us today.

Remember why we went there? The stated purpose, according to the Trump administration, was very clear and understandable. We were going after the rapists, murderers, terrorists, child predators, and criminally insane who had come across the border illegally during the Biden administration. They were to be found and removed and held accountable for their conduct.

No matter where you are on the political spectrum, that mission sounded sensible. Why would we ever allow those dangerous people in the country either by accident or intention, and why wouldn't we do everything we could to remove them?