

That is what Republicans are fighting for. We are going to continue to fight for that. That is the direction our country is headed.

And in November of 2024, people made a clear choice: They chose to vote for Republicans because they wanted America to be safer, stronger, and more prosperous. And we are today. Over the past 18 months, Republicans have upheld that commitment. We have delivered for the American people. We are making sure people keep more of what they earn.

More than 60 million Americans benefited from the new tax benefits since Republicans passed the Working Families Tax Cuts law.

Let me remind you about the Trump Accounts. More than 7 million American children are now signed up this year for this special new investment account. It is an astonishing thing. Families, friends, community groups, and even businesses are already investing in them. This is clearly strengthening the American dream for the next generation.

I also want to talk about the border because today our Nation's immigration laws are being strongly enforced. National security begins with border security. Absolutely zero illegal immigrants have been released into our country in over 14 months—absolutely zero—because Republicans have ended the reckless Joe Biden catch-and-release program. And what a disaster that was. Hundreds of thousands of illegal-immigrant criminals have now been arrested and deported since President Trump took office, and we are seeing the most secure border and the most successful deportation operation in all of American history.

This year, Republicans also passed the Secure America Act. This law ensures that immigration officials have the resources that they need to keep our country safe and to keep our communities safe for years to come.

I just want to mention affordability because today Congress is making it easier to build and easier to innovate. The largest housing reform bill in history is now the law of the land. We eliminated burdensome regulations, regulations that made it too costly to build a new home in America. And we are unlocking the American dream of home ownership for a new generation of Americans.

Congress also passed the first major digital asset bill in American history; it is called the GENIUS Act. My colleague CYNTHIA LUMMIS from Wyoming has been a leader on the issue. It is time for the Senate to build on that by passing the Clarity Act. America is safer and stronger when we innovate.

I also want to talk about some of the things we are doing here to make sure the President has his team fully in place, and those are confirmations. Today, Republicans are getting the President's team fully in place. Very soon, we will confirm an additional 74 nominees. Well, this will be clearly 600

people confirmed in the second Trump administration. Those are 60 more nominees than he had at this point in the first Trump administration, and we have done it in the face of historic obstruction by the Democrats.

Now we see these same Democrats are trying to tear down our country, and they are trying it all across the Nation. The Democrats' agenda is not for a better America, not for a better future for our children, no, no. It is not even an agenda; it is a manifesto. The Democrats have come up with a "manifesto"—that is their label for it, not mine, their label, the Democrats—the manifesto, and I see it as a roadmap to destroy America from people that hate America. When you listen to many of their candidates, it certainly doesn't seem like the thing that most Americans would want to see in their future.

These people and their manifesto—it is radical; it is extreme; it is dangerous; it is scary. That is what our Nation is facing today. The Democrats, every one of them, wants to raise taxes on American families. The Democrat mantra calls for opening the borders. Their manifesto wants to defund the police. The manifesto wants to abolish prisons. The manifesto wants to release convicted criminals into our communities all across the country. The Democrat manifesto wants to eliminate Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Under the extreme Democrat manifesto, the American people would be forced to pay more, earn less, and be less safe and secure. That is what we are facing now. Democrats have turned from a party of the extremists now to the party of radicals.

Republicans are going to continue to be the party of results. That is the choice people are facing. What do you want? Results? Safety? Security? Prosperity? Radicals opening the prisons? Opening the borders? Raising your taxes?

Republicans work fiercely to make America safer, stronger, and more prosperous. Republicans are going to continue to fight for freedom, for liberty, and a continuation of American greatness because that is the future that I believe the American people want and deserve.

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 bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the Trump battleships, while American families can't even keep their heads above water, Donald Trump is spending his time building himself a "golden

fleet" of battleships the Navy doesn't want.

Just get a load of this headline: "Cost of Trump's Namesake Warships Likely to Rise by 50 Percent or More."

Costs to rise by 50 percent or more.

As the article in the New York Times says, his goal is building a "golden fleet" of 15 battleships that cost \$275 billion. Frankly, when Americans hear this, they have no idea whether they need the battleships. They know the only thing Trump cares about is having his name on things. So the fact that there is a fleet of Trump battleships—cost doesn't mean anything; necessity doesn't mean anything; that people are suffering and need help feeding their families, paying their electric bills, and paying the cost of gasoline means nothing to him. Having his name on a bunch of battleships—expensive battleships—is all he cares about.

Trump couldn't handle renovating a reflecting pool or building a ballroom, and now he thinks he is ready to design and construct 15 "Trump-class"—I mean, this guy, he knows no limits—"Trump-class" battleships that will cost more than a quarter of a trillion taxpayer dollars—a quarter of a trillion dollars. He has had a lot of vanity projects. They have been very expensive. This is the most costly vanity project yet.

The Navy never wanted these ships. The American people never asked for these ships. The only person who wants these "golden" ships is Donald Trump so he can slap his name on them.

Trump's willingness to drop \$275 billion on another vanity project but not a single penny to lower costs for working Americans just confounds the imagination. Trump could use the money for these battleships to offset the entire nearly \$200 billion cut he made to SNAP.

Feeding hungry kids or creating an unnecessary class of battleships to put your name on—which is more important, America? The answer is a lot different than what Trump thinks. But no. Trump would rather feed his own ego than feed the American people. He would rather feed his own ego than feed the American people by putting his name on a \$275 billion, 15-battleship outlay.

The ballroom, the Reflecting Pool, the arch, and now the battleships—these are the reasons why more than 7 in 10 Americans think Trump is not focusing on the top issues facing the country.

Donald, the American people don't need a fleet of golden Trump-class battleships right now; they need a life raft.

MORTGAGE RATES

Mr. President, on mortgage rates, as Trump focuses on his exorbitant vanity projects, Americans can tell what he is ignoring—lowering their costs. As if Americans weren't struggling enough already, they just saw mortgage rates hit their highest level in a year because of Trump's disastrous war and

failed economic agenda. Trump has turned the American dream of owning a home into a pipedream.

Let's not forget, when Trump called our bipartisan bill to lower housing costs a joke and refused to sign it, he was belittling the need for housing. The President acts like he is allergic to helping Americans.

What does Trump have to say to the millions of families just trying to make it through the week as they drown in higher gas prices and grocery bills?

Trump said yesterday that Americans are living in the "greatest economy we've ever had by far." Those were his words in Nevada yesterday. In practically the same breath, Trump said:

We may have to send [oil prices] up.

The President has lost any grip on reality. He is so in his own world of creating monuments to himself that he is forgetting the American people all the time. It is not just that he doesn't think of them enough; he hardly thinks of them at all.

The greatest economy we have ever had? Tell that to the family that is deciding between filling up their tank and filling up their fridge. Tell that to the veteran I met who said that he sometimes has to choose between feeding his child and feeding his service dog. Whatever fantasy world Trump is living in sounds a whole lot nicer than the economic hardship Americans are struggling with right now.

Trump's playbook has only one page: Deny reality until the bill comes due, and then send it to you, America.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, finally, on nominations, Trump's main priority is his pointless vanity projects, but he has another: packing our government to the rafters with far-right wing extremists.

Senate Republicans are ramming through a nominations package that will put a grab bag of charlatans and MAGA foot soldiers into the highest positions of power. The Senate GOP knows how absurd some of these nominees are, which is why they are trying to flood the zone and push them through with a single vote. They couldn't withstand the spotlight, they couldn't withstand the scrutiny that the individual nominations process would have done to them.

All these nominees will have different jobs, but they share the same qualification: absolute loyalty to Donald Trump no matter how ridiculous his policies are.

The American people expect more from their government than just blind loyalty to Donald Trump.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 832

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I have been told that I am a lousy politician but a good Senator. I consider that a compliment. What would happen if everyone in the Senate stopped being a good politician for a moment and strove to be a good Senator when it comes to addressing the issue associated with Social Security?

Over 70 million Americans depend upon Social Security, and ultimately, all Americans will when they reach the age of retirement. Everyone in the Senate and most of the people in the country know that the Social Security System is going insolvent. When that occurs, by law, there will be a cut, if we wait for 6 years, of 22 to 28 percent—a 22- to 28-percent cut in benefits for everyone on Social Security and everyone who will be.

Members of Congress say they care about Social Security. They say they care about the seniors, they care about preserving promised benefits for current retirees and future generations.

We have had a bill before us called the PROMISE Act by Senator DICK DURBIN, my Democratic Senator colleague from Illinois. That would have been a bill that would have set up a Commission, if you will, of the Social Security Advisory Board to put forward a proposal. But the House is out of session. That could not pass. So now I put up a Senate resolution. And we take out the involvement of the Social Security actuaries, and we ask that a group of Senators and Representatives, Republicans and Democrats, come together over the next 2 months in a process to produce a potential idea.

This, what I am about to propose, is not about a particular solution. This, what I am about to propose, is about a process by which a solution can be considered, given to the Senate Finance Committee and House Ways and Means for regular-order consideration, and then with a time agreement so that there will be, after that consideration by the Senate Finance Committee in which any member can replace the bill that is brought to them with an amendment in the nature of a substitute—that "any member" could be BERNIE MORENO; it could be ELIZABETH WARREN; it could be RON WYDEN; it could be BERNIE SANDERS; it could be BILL CASSIDY—putting up their own proposal if they don't like what this bipartisan, bicameral group of elected officials comes up with.

Now, this is merely a process. It does not attempt to point in any direction toward a solution. All it asks is that we be good Senators—putting politics aside and recognizing that if we don't do something sooner than later to fix the problem with Social Security, future Social Security beneficiaries can get as much as a 28.5-percent cut in benefits under current law.

So I am putting it to a test. Will the Senate take up the challenge? Will we

put politics aside and step forward on a bipartisan, bicameral basis to actually work for the American people in a way which can ensure that Social Security exists?

So I ask unanimous consent on a path forward that all colleagues should be able to support. It merely, once more, creates a process to do what the American people sent us here to do: Debate solutions, consider proposals, and vote. It does not predetermine the outcome. It just says that Congress must consider a solution—anyone's solution, Democrat or Republican, left and right. It just asks us to do our job to consider the solution and to then go through regular order on the Senate Finance Committee, to be considered by all.

So will we be good Senators, or will we be good politicians? Will we deny progress for the sake of political success? Let's find out.

Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent to set up a process—only a process—for Congress to consider solutions. So my script is: As if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 832, which is at the desk. I further ask that the resolution be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, first of all, let me say that, for years now, BILL CASSIDY and I have worked together in the Finance Committee on healthcare, trying to find bipartisan common ground. And I just want him to know how much I have appreciated working with him.

This is an issue we simply disagree on. And that happens. People have differences of opinion.

The Social Security crisis is a freight train barreling toward our Nation. Social Security will be depleted before the end of the next Presidential administration.

The resolution on offer now claims to be a quick solution to addressing the crisis. Instead, the resolution creates a fast track for Republicans to carry out a long-sought goal of slashing Social Security benefits for retirees and helping billionaires avoid paying their fair share. Each time Republicans get their hands on Social Security, it seems that cuts get made and life gets worse for seniors. Establishing this commission would be a fast track to cutting benefits.

The proposal on offer is a Senate-only process. Under the Constitution, bills raising taxes must originate in the House of Representatives. Because of this constitutional requirement, any Senate-only process, like the Cassidy proposal, could not include a tax increase. This means, under the Cassidy proposal, billionaires could not be required to contribute. We couldn't increase the payroll tax cap or include