

of the 2016 Presidential election. Sadly, the improper disclosure of sensitive materials related to Secretary Clinton's aides only demonstrates the underlying political position of the Judiciary Committee's oversight. Going forward, I hope my Republican colleagues will exercise greater restraint in the relentless pursuit of Secretary Clinton, but, more importantly, I hope Senate Republicans take their constitutional responsibility more seriously to offer their advice and consent on the Presidential nominees. I hope they take them very seriously. It is shameful that the Republicans are blocking critical, national security nominees for political purposes. I would ask them to please change course because the American people are watching.

ROSA PARKS AND MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT ANNIVERSARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 60 years ago today Rosa Parks boarded a city bus in Montgomery, AL. She had worked hard all day. She was riding a bus. She was asked to give up her seat by the busdriver, who was a White man. She was sick of having to give up her seat and she was tired, but she refused to give up her seat, so she was arrested.

On that day at that moment of courage, Rosa Parks sparked a movement that would end the legal segregation of public transportation, the Montgomery Bus Boycott. That boycott lasted from December 5, 1955, to December 20, 1956—almost 1 year, becoming the first large-scale demonstration against segregation in our country's history. The Supreme Court ultimately ordered Montgomery to integrate its public bus transportation system.

Rosa Parks went on to become a pillar of the civil rights movement, a lifelong freedom fighter who changed the course of history.

In 2013, a bronze statue of Ms. Parks was unveiled in Statuary Hall in the Capitol. In the decades since Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on that bus, our Nation has made tremendous progress in the defense of civil rights for all Americans, but we have much more to do. Today, 60 years after Rosa Parks took a stand for equality, the fight for equal justice rages on. Just like Rosa Parks, many Americans across this country are very upset with the status quo, and they are taking a stand against injustice and discrimination.

As we remember the valiant actions of Rosa Parks, may we be inspired by her character and her determination. May we follow her example and continue the work of the civil rights movement.

Mr. President, what do we have the rest of the day?

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Georgia.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS G. COUSINS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, last Thursday was Thanksgiving in America. Like every Member of the Senate and every American, I paused to give thanks for the many blessings we have in the country, the blessings I have as a father and grandfather, and the blessings we enjoy from all those who serve in harm's way around the world who keep us safe and in peace.

I also took a second to participate in some charitable activities for those less fortunate and, in doing so, stopped to pause and give thanks for those people who on the day of Thanksgiving were giving of their time and their money to make the lives of those less fortunate better.

One of the people in my State I want to talk about who has done exactly that for five decades is a man by the name of Thomas G. Cousins, a real estate developer greatly renowned in Atlanta and, really, around the world, and who amassed millions and millions of dollars in the Cousins Foundation and invested that money in trying to solve the problems of poverty, crime, unemployment, and health care.

Thomas G. Cousins founded the Cousins Foundation to see to it that Atlanta, GA, and the State of Georgia were a better State. But he became frustrated. He recognized that of the 72 million children in the United States of America, 40 percent of them lived in poverty. He became frustrated because he found that isolated neighborhoods of concentrated poverty created unemployment, poor performance by students, and greater crime rates in the city of Atlanta. Worst of all, he found that the entrepreneurial gifts of charity trying to alleviate these problems often got consumed but never made a fundamental change. He thought it was time for his charitable money to become entrepreneurial, not just a giveaway. So in the decade of 1990, Tom Cousins decided to do something about making the Cousins Foundation investment make a meaningful difference in the lives of Americans around the country. He did exactly that.

He heard Dr. Todd Clear, a professor at Rutgers University, give a speech in New York City, where he had done research on the prison population of the State of New York and researched where they came from to find, amazingly, that three out of every four prisoners in the New York State prison system came out of eight neighborhoods in New York City. Concentrated poverty created concentrated crime and concentrated criminals. There was

a never-ending cycle of crime, poverty, and poor educational performance in those neighborhoods.

So Tom Cousins decided that, instead of giving his money away in small, incremental bits to make a minor difference, he would become a charitable entrepreneur. He would go to a neighborhood of concentrated crime and poverty and try to make a meaningful difference. He found a neighborhood called East Lake Meadows in the 1990s in Atlanta, GA. It was the home of Bobby Jones and Charlie Yates, famous golfers of the 1920s, but had gone to seed, was dilapidated, and became a neighborhood of crime. In fact, it had become known as the Little Vietnam of Georgia. Police would not enter the area because of the crime rate. Drew Elementary School was the worst performing elementary school in the State of Georgia.

Tom Cousins came to the State board of education—and I know this because I was the chairman—and asked us to go to the city of Atlanta to get them to issue a charter for Drew Elementary School and a 99-year lease to the Cousins Foundation. Tom Cousins went in and built a new Drew Elementary School, hired Georgia State University to bring in a professor to be the principal there and manage the education of those children. Drew Elementary School went from being one of the worst performing schools in the State of Georgia to one of the best.

But he didn't stop with the school. He improved the neighborhood. He improved the facilities. He built a YMCA. He took a holistic approach to East Lake Meadows and turned it into a shining city once again in the State of Georgia. But he didn't do it just because he gave money. He did it because he invested his money in the lives of these people.

I will give some idea of the changes made in East Lake Meadows and Drew Elementary School. Drew Elementary went from 5 percent of its fifth graders reading and performing in math levels where they should, to where 90 percent of the fifth graders exceeded the math standards of the State of Georgia. Where the median income of the families in East Lake Meadows was \$4,536 when Tom Cousins went in, 15 years later it was \$17,260. There was a 90-percent reduction in the crime rate, to the point where it was 50 percent lower than the city's overall crime rate. He transformed the neighborhood because he invested his money entrepreneurially in trying to solve the problems and the poverty of these people.

He went to Warren Buffett, a leading entrepreneur of America, and formed a new organization called Purpose Built Communities, which is based on three fundamental discoveries they made at East Lake Meadows. No. 1, it can be done. How many times have people walked by declining neighborhoods of poverty, crime, and failing schools, and said: There is nothing we can do; we