

Now, people go to the marketplace and they have lots of choices. That is why we have 20 million more people who have health insurance now who didn't have it before. There are many examples, but my friend the Republican leader just ignores them. Preexisting conditions—think about that. Prior to ObamaCare, if you had a child who was born with a birth defect of some kind, if you had a child that developed diabetes, or if you were an adult who might have had a car accident, or you were a woman—a woman—who had a pre-existing condition, you had to pay more for your health insurance, if you could get some.

Everyone seems to ignore the good that has come from ObamaCare. Eighty-five percent of the people in the marketplaces get financial assistance in buying their coverage. After assistance, people are paying an average of \$175 a month for their health insurance.

So ObamaCare is a signature issue of the Obama administration. As he announced yesterday, he is very happy with what ObamaCare has done for the American people, and it should be made better. It could be made better so easily if we could have a little bit of cooperation from the Republicans—a little bit. But we are going to continue focusing on making sure that people understand how well it has worked.

CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last evening at 4 o'clock or thereabouts, I had the opportunity to go to the White House and visit with the President, along with Leader McCONNELL, Speaker RYAN, and Leader PELOSI. We met for about 1 hour and 15 minutes. It was a very good meeting. We had to discuss a number of issues. We discussed a lot, but I will not talk about them all today.

There was a discussion about a path forward to fund the government to prevent a government shutdown—in spite of what the Wall Street Journal said today. The Wall Street Journal said in an editorial that the Republicans should just close the government again. I don't think there are many Republicans who agree with the Wall Street Journal editorial.

There is reason for some very, very cautious optimism about our meeting last night. We are going to proceed carefully. I know the Republicans will do the same. We have been down this road with the Republicans before. Happy talk is just that a lot of times. We have been optimistic in the past only to see the Republicans fail to live up to their end of the agreement.

If we are going to pass a CR that keeps our government open and funded, there are a number of problems that must be addressed. We have to stop ignoring the problems with Zika. This has been a problem, according to the President of the United States, since last February. We have done nothing to

give these people some relief, and they need it. We thought that it was just a problem that affected women and pregnant women, but it has gotten so much more serious than that. That is plenty serious. But now they are looking at the virus going into people's eyes and causing vision impairment, blindness. That is men and women. So we have to get something done with Zika. We thought we had it all done here with the work done by Senators MURRAY and BLUNT. We had a bill. It wasn't everything we wanted, and it certainly wasn't what the President wanted. It was \$1.1 billion. We sent it to the House. We don't need to go through what gymnastics they went through to throw a big monkey wrench into the good work we had done over here by passing it with 89 bipartisan votes.

Last week there were 17,000 Americans infected with Zika. We are told by the Centers for Disease Control that there are now 19,000. That is a 13-percent increase in 7 days, and each day it is only going to get worse. We need to treat the Zika virus like the genuine health crisis it is, not a bargaining chip for Republicans to use to attack Planned Parenthood, fly the Confederate flag, cut veterans spending by half a billion dollars, and other such things they stuck in the bill that came back from the House.

We want to work with the Republicans to secure Zika funding, but we will flatly reject any attempt to undermine women's health.

Once we have taken care of Zika, we must, then, as a Senate address Republicans' issues dealing with the continuing resolution, including riders dealing with the Environmental Protection Agency. They want to weaken the Clean Water Act by exempting pesticide spraying from the EPA's over-seeing what goes on there.

We need to find a way forward on both of these important issues, while trying to navigate Senator CRUZ's attempts to slow down the CR. Unfortunately, this is what we have come to expect from my friend, the junior Senator from Texas. This is his shtick. Whenever the Senate has a deadline, he tries to obstruct government funding bills.

So we have our work cut out for us. I am cautiously optimistic the Senate will complete its work on the funding of Zika and the CR. We can do it, but it can only happen if we work together and resolve these important topics.

Mr. President, I ask the Chair to announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2016

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will re-

sume consideration of S. 2848, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2848) to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell (for Inhofe) amendment No. 4979, in the nature of a substitute.

Inhofe amendment No. 4980 (to amendment No. 4979), to make a technical correction.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Republican leader.

CIVILITY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, while the Democratic leader is still on the floor, let me express my gratitude to him for his remarks earlier. It is true that for better or for worse, we both have to bear the burden of legal training and experience in courtrooms where we learned that adversaries don't necessarily have to be enemies and to disassociate the arguments we are making from any personal animus or animosity, which, I think, is a very healthy and constructive thing to do. I always remember the excerpt from "The Taming of the Shrew" where one of the speakers said: "Do as adversaries in law; strive mightily, but eat and drink as friends."

So I think that kind of civility is an important admonition for all of us. It is one that maybe we don't always live up to but one that I think we should continue to strive to emulate.

So let me just say to the Democratic leader that I appreciate his comments and perhaps we can all do a little bit better in that category.

OBAMACARE

As the minority leader also pointed out, we have some very big disagreements. It seems as though each day is likely to bring more news about the awful side effects of President Obama's signature health care legislation, ObamaCare, as it has come to be called. The truth is that the implementation and the reality of ObamaCare has been nothing short of a disaster for many of the people who I represent in Texas, but it is not limited to the 27 million people or so who live in Texas. The problem has been visited on many people, as the majority leader commented about earlier with some of the statements he made with regard to its implementation in various other States.

Unfortunately, when Congress and Washington make a mistake, it is the American people who have to pay the price, and it seems as though the consequences of ObamaCare are only getting worse.

I think it is worth remembering—I certainly remember—that it was on Christmas Eve in 2009, at 7 o'clock in the morning, when the Senate passed the ObamaCare legislation with 60 Democrats voting in favor of it and all Republicans voting against it. I think that was the beginning of the failure of