

our good Senator, John McCain, but certainly there is no one who comes closer than JON KYL, having served with Senator McCain for 20 years.

I had an experience that I want to share this afternoon, something that happened in church on Sunday. On Sunday, I was at a church. It is a little rural church in Oklahoma called Church On The Lake. A guy named Mark Deckard is the pastor there. This is not my church. In fact, my wife and I, our church is the First Presbyterian Church in Tulsa. That is the church she and I were married in a number of years ago, where all of our kids were married, and where all of our kids were baptized. My wife was baptized there over 80 years ago. So no one is closer to that church than we are, but occasionally I will go to another church.

Nobody actually knew I was going to be at this church last Sunday. I want to share an experience I had. A lady whom I didn't know came up to me. Her name is Lois Keene. She asked: Would you give this letter to President Trump? I don't think there is a Member of the Senate or the House who doesn't get this request quite often. It sounds quite easy to do, but it is not easy to do. After I read the letter, I decided this is something I really want to do.

She asked: Would you give this letter to President Trump?

I said: Is it OK if I read it?

And I read it. It was a letter supporting him, recognizing—and this is someone from Afton, OK. It is so obvious to her what the press has done unmercifully to this President. I have never seen anything like it. She has never seen anything like it, and so she had something she wanted to give to me defending the President.

I read it, and I said: You know, I have to say that these are not the words I would use. If I were defending the President, I would say—because to get people's attention, when you have an unfriendly media, you have to simplify it so everyone understands it. So I said I would normally just talk about three issues.

No. 1, the economy. Our economy right now at this time, we have not seen anything like it in 40 years. There are two indicators that you look at, one is economic growth. The economic growth during the last quarter actually exceeded 4 percent. It has been averaging over 3 percent. During the Obama years, for 8 years, it averaged 1.5 percent—1.5 percent growth—as opposed to at least doubling that or maybe three times that.

Now, why is this important? It is important because for every 1 percent increase in economic activity, what that does is bring in new revenue equaling

about \$2.9 trillion over 10 years. What does that tell you? It tells you that when we are now going through and rebuilding the military and all of these things, the infrastructure, these are things we need to do, and they are going to cost money. That indicator is there. Then, also, there is the indicator in terms of employment. Our unemployment right now has actually dipped below 4 percent. Economists always say 4 percent is full of employment, and so we have that.

The economy just couldn't be better than it is. It is undeniable, and yet nobody talks about it. The media doesn't talk about it.

The second thing I would say is that everyone knows now what happened during the 8 years. I don't criticize former President Obama. He is what I call a real honest liberal. He is not a closet liberal. He comes out and says it. He believes we need to have more of a socialist society. We have lived through that. Someone with that belief is not going to be real strong in terms of building the military. We have gone through this military thing for about 8 years, and now we are defending—we passed the Defense bill, which we named after John McCain. That Defense bill is putting us back on the road for a strong national defense.

People think erroneously that America has the best of everything, and they don't. Right now, we have gotten to the point where our—a lot of our systems—our triad system, for example, which is the modernization system, both China and Russia have one now that is better than ours.

Our artillery systems—you measure our artillery by the range and by rapid fire, and we are outgunned by both Russia and China in those areas. We know what has happened.

Right now, we are at the point where we have actually confirmed 26 appellate judges just in the short term that this President has been in. So I would be talking about that, but that is not what she said.

It is true, and her observation is true, that it doesn't go unnoticed by people when you have the media that is really not treating the President right.

By the way, I was a victim of this too. In fact, during the McCain discussion, after McCain's life was lost, several times on the floor I talked about the fact that way back in 1994, when I ran for U.S. Senate, there were only three Senators who came out to Oklahoma to help, and one of them was John McCain. He came out twice. We flew all over in my little airplane in about 100 degrees, and he campaigned for me. So he has been a good friend. Yet, by responding to one of the major medias in a way that I made some com-

ment about the fact that we have two individuals, Senator McCain and President Trump, who just don't have a good relationship—everybody knows that—they tried to turn that into something that was negative that they wanted people to believe that I said. In fact, I was in St. Louis between flights, at about 10 o'clock at night, and shortly after that, someone jumped all over me and was convinced that I had said something negative, and it just flat was not true.

So, anyway, I would like to read the letter before I tell you that I am going to try to pass this on to the President.

So I read it. As I read the letter, there was a group, as can happen after a sermon takes place and people are all sitting around talking, and every head nodded with approval of this letter that this lady gave me. Here it is right here. That is her handwriting there. The letter says:

Dear President Trump,

I am writing this letter to encourage you. All across America God's people are praying for you. With all my heart I know God put you in office for such a time as this. He has given America a window of time. At this time there is a spiritual war going on for the soul of America. Good versus evil. That is why there is so much opposition against you and the Christian people.

You have so many, many people praying for you. Stand strong. I know you are a warrior or God would not have placed you in office. You will continue to come against opposition because the enemy (Satan) will continue to fight you as he will God's people. The stakes are high!

As God's warrior, continue to fight. We are fighting the battle with you on our knees. Many battles are won on our knees. Thank you for being our leader and our President! Our love is with you.

Yours in Christ,
Lois Keene
Afton, OK

So I would just say to the President: You are being butchered by the media. Everybody knows that. But keep in mind that America is full of Lois Keenes and they love you.

With that, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands adjourned until 12 noon tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:18 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, September 6, 2018, at 12 noon.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate September 5, 2018:

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

ELAD L. ROISMAN, OF MAINE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 5, 2023.