

civil rights issue of our time.” It has been 2 years, and we have heard almost nothing from the President about an education bill.

In the last State of the Union, just 1 year ago, the President said: “One of my greatest priorities is to reduce the price of prescription drugs. . . . Prices will come down.” But over the course of the last month, nearly 30 drugmakers have taken steps to raise the prices of their medicines.

In the last State of the Union, the President promised that “[manufacturing] plants will be opening up all over the country.” I don’t know about you, Mr. President, but I haven’t seen a remanufacturing policy from the White House. Meanwhile, Nissan has announced hundreds of layoffs in Mississippi, and GM has announced the closure of 5 factories and the loss of 15,000 jobs.

In the last State of the Union, the President said: “We will protect American workers and American intellectual property through strong enforcement of our trade rules.” That is something I strongly agree with. Six months after the President said that, he decided to let a Chinese telecom giant, ZTE—a company that violated multiple trade sanctions and put our Nation’s security at risk—off the hook and begin operating in the United States. Now, while some in the administration are pushing him to be tough on China, there are some who just want to sell out for a decrease in the trade deficit. That will not do the job the President always promised he would.

In the last State of the Union, the President said: “No regime has oppressed its own citizens more totally or brutally than the cruel dictatorship in North Korea. . . . We are waging a campaign of maximum pressure to prevent that from happening.” After that, what happened? The President hosted a largely symbolic summit with Kim Jong Un and is already planning a second summit. North Korea has failed to dismantle its nuclear program—some reports say it is growing—and the United States is not engaging in a pressure campaign, maximum or otherwise.

President Trump called for a compromise immigration bill that dealt with Dreamers and border security. Congress produced one along the lines he proposed, and then he threatened to veto it.

In the last State of the Union, the President said “It is time to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure” and called for new legislation to spur investment. He said: “Let’s support working families by supporting paid family leave.” He said: “We will continue our fight until ISIS is defeated.” What are the facts? There has been no infrastructure bill, although he promised one in the previous State of the Union; no paid family leave proposal, although he promised one in the previous State of the Union; and he is withdrawing from Syria even though he promised we would continue the

fight until ISIS is defeated. And by all reports, including our own intelligence, it is not.

I could go on. The list of broken or empty promises is long. The gap between the President’s rhetoric and reality is cavernous. Every President uses the State of the Union to set goals, but few have done it so cheaply and indifferently. Many of those promises were discarded mere weeks after they were uttered.

Forgive me, but if we Democrats and the American people have real doubt about any promise the President makes, real doubt about his following through or really meaning it, how can we not? In previous State of the Union Addresses, he has thrown around promises and not fulfilled them more than any other President I know.

Perhaps even emptier than his policy promises are President Trump’s calls for unity each year. It seems that every year the President wakes up and discovers the desire for unity on the morning of the State of the Union. Then the President spends the other 364 days of the year dividing us and sowing a state of disunion, whether that is using public servants as political pawns, the President’s false equivalence after Charlottesville, his attacks on the Federal judiciary, the free press, and the rule of law, or his near-daily twitter provocations. The blatant hypocrisy of this President calling for unity is that he is one of the chief reasons Americans feel so divided now.

So it is logical to believe, based on his past speeches, that the President’s speech tonight will ignore the reality of his administration, the reality of our economy, the reality of our world, and instead weave a web of fiction. If past speeches are an indication, the President will be in his own bubble.

Democrats are not focused on the President’s rhetoric; we are focused on fighting for workers in this unequal economy, fighting for American families struggling to afford healthcare, fighting to bring a measure of accountability to this government, and fighting for a foreign policy that reflects both our interests and our values.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

STRENGTHENING AMERICA’S SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST ACT OF 2019—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1) to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Risch amendment No. 97, to clarify the deadline for the reporting requirement relating to the establishment of a Jordan Enterprise Fund.

Menendez (for Risch) amendment No. 98 (to amendment No. 97), to provide for a classified annex to be submitted with the report on the cooperation of the United States and Israel with respect to countering unmanned aerial systems.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

S. 130

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, last night, our colleague from Nebraska, Senator BEN SASSE, brought a bill to the floor to protect infants who are born alive during abortions.

The legislation is simple. In the words of the bill, it finds:

If an abortion results in the live birth of an infant, the infant is a legal person for all purposes under the laws of the United States, and entitled to all the protections of such laws. Any infant born alive after an abortion . . . has the same claim to the protection of the law that would arise for any newborn.

In other words, any living, breathing baby outside of its mother’s body should be protected. That is a pretty basic standard of decency. One would assume that there is no human being alive who would object to such a bill—that even my colleagues across the aisle who don’t think that living, breathing unborn babies should be protected could get behind this bill—but you would be wrong because, last night, Senate Democrats objected to the consideration of this bill. They objected to the consideration of legislation to protect babies who are born alive.

Let’s take a step back and remember why Senator SASSE brought this bill up in the first place.

Last week, the Democratic Governor of Virginia was asked about an extreme proposal from a Virginia Democrat to remove restrictions on late-term abortions. In his comments on the bill, the Virginia Governor had this to say:

If a mother is in labor, I can tell you exactly what would happen. The infant would be delivered. The infant would be kept comfortable. The infant would be resuscitated if that’s what the mother and the family desired, and then a discussion would ensue between the physicians and the mother.

In other words, the Democratic Governor of Virginia not only endorsed