

name only. There was no legislation. As you may have seen, we have done little more than process nominations.

Later this afternoon, we will see what the majority leader plans for next week, but I have a suspicion—just more nominations.

Meanwhile, there is no shortage of legislation we could work on. The House of Representatives has passed no fewer than 100 pieces of legislation. Guess how many of those 100 have received consideration on the floor of the Senate. Zero. Zero of the House-passed bills on legislation.

Commonsense background checks, voting rights, paycheck fairness, defending protections for Americans with preexisting conditions—all bipartisan, all supported by the overwhelming majority of the American public, but in the Senate there is no action—nothing. We have become a conveyor belt for nominations and a graveyard for legislation.

I have said again and again to Leader MCCONNELL that if he doesn't like every aspect of the House Democratic bills, that is fine. That is democracy. Let's debate them. Let's have amendments.

If the leader truly wants to start from scratch, we would love to hear his plan. If he doesn't think we should close loopholes in our background check system, then, what is his plan to reduce gun violence and mass shootings?

He doesn't like the Green New Deal—fine. What is his plan to deal with climate change?

Before Leader MCCONNELL became majority leader, he promised that if he were in charge, he would do things differently in the Senate. He would have open debates, an open amendment process. He would have us vote on the issues of the day, no matter which party the ideas come from.

Eventually, the American people are going to take a hard look at this obstructionist Republican majority of the 116th Congress and wonder what the heck we did with our time. When they realize that the Republican Senate has spent nearly all of its time so far rubberstamping nominees—so many of whom are unqualified and so many of whose views, whether they be judicial or executive appointments, are so far out of the American mainstream and ignoring real legislation that could help middle class families—I wouldn't blame them for wanting to change the leadership of the Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

S.J. RES. 7

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, in the United States, American foreign policy is not determined by just one person. The Constitution makes that clear. Article I grants Congress the power to declare war, not the President.

Consistent with that responsibility, Democrats and Republicans in this

body worked together to pass a bipartisan resolution directing the President to end U.S. support for Saudi-led hostilities in Yemen. I am a proud cosponsor of that bill, which passed both Chambers of Congress in recent months.

We made it unmistakably clear that our involvement in Yemen is not authorized by Congress, but the President has chosen to sidestep the bipartisan majority by not signing this bill into law.

In doing so, he is sustaining the crisis through the continuing refueling of Saudi aircraft and other activities.

The American people are not asking the President for this. Taxpayers, certainly, do not want to pay for it.

I serve on the Senate Armed Services Committee, and I can assure you that supporting Saudi Arabia's operations in Yemen is nowhere—nowhere—to be found in our national defense strategy.

I urge my colleagues to reject continued support for Saudi Arabia's military actions in Yemen. Congress must do its job and vote to override the President's veto.

We have an opportunity this week to help make the suffering in Yemen come to an end. Let's not forget that 22 million people in Yemen still need humanitarian assistance or protection. More than 8 million people still go hungry every single day. Sixteen million Yemenis still don't have clean water, resulting in pervasive disease outbreaks. Children are still dying every single day. Every 10 minutes, a child under 5 dies in Yemen from a preventable cause, according to the United Nations.

For many people, their survival is a daily challenge and struggle. Their future hangs, literally, by a thread.

In addition to disease, starvation, and displacement, the people of Yemen are subjected to indiscriminate bombings led by Saudi Arabia.

Let me be clear. Bombs will not resolve this conflict. All parties must come together and work toward a peaceful solution that places the dignity of all Yemeni people at the center of those negotiations, and we can help facilitate that. That is what the American people want.

If you go to Michigan, you can meet with some of the Yemeni Americans who just want the same thing that everybody else does—help for those who are suffering and meaningful steps toward peace.

American diplomacy can help to resolve this tragedy, and we must make every effort to do so.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

REMEMBERING RICHARD LUGAR

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, the country lost one of its elder statesmen this week with the death of former Senator Richard Lugar.

As Members of Congress, one of the most important parts of our job is keeping our Nation secure. We only

hope that when we leave Congress, we will have left our Nation a little safer than when we found it.

Richard Lugar never had to wonder if he had done that. As the Soviet Union was collapsing, Dick stepped forward and shepherded the passage of the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction Program, which supported the dismantling and decommissioning of nuclear weapons in former Soviet countries before the weapons could fall into the hands of terrorists or rogue nations.

As a direct result of his efforts, over the years, thousands of weapons have been destroyed—from warheads to missiles to chemical weapons. Thanks to his work, our Nation and our world are more secure.

Dick's achievements on global security are the kind of legacy most of us can only hope to have, but, of course, that is not all that Dick Lugar did in his Senate career.

As Indiana's longest serving Senator, he also served as a leader on agricultural issues and on food security. Even after he had left the Senate, he continued to advocate for the issues that he cared about as president of the Lugar Center, which, among other things, focuses on global food security and preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Dick will be sorely missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, particularly his wife, Char, and their four sons, Mark, Bob, John, and David.

TAX REFORM

Madam President, over the Easter break, I got to visit a number of South Dakota businesses, like Persona Signs in Madison and Energy Dynamics in Carthage.

Visiting with South Dakotans is the best part of my job, and it is the best way to learn how government policies are affecting South Dakotans and what South Dakotans need from Washington.

One thing that has been wonderful to see over the past year is how tax reform is benefiting South Dakota businesses. Businesses are benefiting directly from things like rate cuts and enhanced expensing, and they are also benefitting from the economic growth that tax reform has helped produce.

I was excited to see that DeGeest Steel Works in Tea, Valley Queen Cheese in Milbank, and Royal Canin pet food in North Sioux City are all in the process of expanding.

Tax reform was a huge step forward in creating an economy where businesses can grow, expand, and create jobs, but there is more work to be done to ensure that South Dakota businesses have all the resources they need to thrive.

One big priority for Republicans is passing the United States-Mexico-Canada free trade agreement, which would help to grow our economy, raise wages, and create 176,000 new jobs. Canada and Mexico are top markets for U.S. agricultural products, and South Dakota