

that money is from our children—all of it—and there has never been an effort to pay for it since.

Then, because of their lax regulatory oversight of the housing market, the economy collapsed. The economy collapsed, and Barack Obama was handed not a \$5 trillion surplus but a \$1.2 trillion deficit from the Republicans, from George Bush. During the course of his Presidency, we had to weather the worst recession since the Great Depression. The worst it ever got around here was \$1.5 trillion on the deficit, and the other side called him a Bolshevik and a Socialist. Well-meaning people from all over Wall Street and other places came down here and said: Fix the debt. Fix the debt.

Where are they today? Where are they today?

By the time he left, President Obama had cut the deficit by more than half—by more than half.

Every one of these deals has been cut by MITCH MCCONNELL, every single one. So it didn't surprise me at all this week that he was reported in the Washington Post to have said to the President that no politician has ever lost an election spending more money. No politician has ever lost an election spending more money, said the Republican majority leader to the President. I can't think of a more Bolshevik statement than that, to use terms that the other side has been using for 10 years. I can't think of a more irresponsible position than that when we are not in the depths of a recession, when 10 million people haven't lost their jobs, when the economy, according to the President, is the best economy we have ever had.

This is the moment we should be securing our future. This is the moment we should be preparing for another foreign engagement. Because of these deals that have been led by MITCH MCCONNELL, the Republican leader from Kentucky, when you add it all up, not only do we have this extraordinary deficit that we have never seen in the country's history—

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 1 additional minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BENNET. But since 2001, we have cut taxes by \$5 trillion. We borrowed all of that money from our children, and almost all of the benefit went to the wealthiest people in America. We spent \$5.6 trillion on wars in the Middle East. We didn't pay for a single dollar of it. That is \$11 trillion, \$12 trillion that we could have spent to fix every road and bridge in America, that could have fixed every single airport in America that needs it, that could have made Social Security solvent for my children's generation and for the other children of the people who came out here and said: We are here to immobilize the Democratic President in the name of fiscal responsibility. But now we know the level of their fiscal hypocrisy. It knows no end.

If there is one benefit of this—if there is one benefit of this, the American people are—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. BENNET. I yield the floor.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of the following named officer for appointment as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., sections 152 and 601 to be General: GEN Mark A. Milley.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Milley nomination?

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 89, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 230 Ex.]

#### YEAS—89

Alexander	Duckworth	McSally
Baldwin	Durbin	Menendez
Barrasso	Enzi	Murkowski
Bennet	Ernst	Murphy
Blackburn	Feinstein	Murray
Blumenthal	Fischer	Paul
Blunt	Gardner	Peters
Boozman	Graham	Portman
Braun	Grassley	Reed
Brown	Hassan	Risch
Burr	Hawley	Roberts
Cantwell	Heinrich	Romney
Capito	Hirono	Rosen
Cardin	Hoeven	Rounds
Carper	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Casey	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Johnson	Schatz
Collins	Jones	Schumer
Coons	Kaine	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cortez Masto	King	Shaheen
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sinema
Crapo	Manchin	Smith
Cruz	Markey	Stabenow
Daines	McConnell	Sullivan

Tester	Udall	Wicker
Thune	Van Hollen	Wyden
Tillis	Warner	Young
Toomey	Whitehouse	

#### NAYS—1

Merkley

#### NOT VOTING—10

Booker	Klobuchar	Sanders
Gillibrand	Leahy	Warren
Harris	Moran	
Isakson	Perdue	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

The majority whip.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, yesterday we confirmed two more excellent judges in the Senate. Despite Democratic obstruction, we continue to move forward on confirming nominees to the Federal bench.

Some of our Democratic colleagues have criticized the amount of time the Senate spends on judges. We have spent a substantial amount of time on judges because we have had to.

Back in the day, most of the judicial nominees we are considering would have been confirmed without the time-consuming cloture vote process. By this point in President Obama's first term, Republicans had required cloture votes on just three—three—of President Obama's judicial nominees. Let's compare that to today.

As of yesterday, July 24, Democrats had required cloture votes on a staggering 94 judicial nominees—94—to 3 at this same point under President Obama.

It is not because they are fiercely opposed to all of these nominees. In fact, again and again, Democrats have turned around and voted for the very same judges they delayed.

Just a couple of weeks ago in the Senate, we confirmed three district court judges by huge bipartisan margins: 78 to 15, 80 to 14, and 85 to 10. Clearly, these were not nominees that Democrats bitterly opposed. Yet Democrats insisted on the same old delaying cloture vote tactic they have used with so many judicial nominees.

I, too, am frustrated that we have had to spend a lot of time on judges. I