

with Hong Kong, does not do what Democratic or Republican Presidents have done in the past in standing up for human rights and democracy. He has not done that. He doesn't seem to care. As we know, he seems more eager to please dictators than to please those who are fighting for democracy.

Congress can act. We have a bipartisan bill in the Senate that has many cosponsors, including the senior Senators from Florida and New Jersey and from Maryland as well, that would reaffirm our steadfast support for Hong Kong's autonomy, democracy, and respect for human rights. It would amend the Hong Kong Policy Act in order to give us the tools to safeguard and protect Hong Kong's democracy and autonomy and hold accountable those responsible for the abuse of the human rights of the people of Hong Kong.

There is no objection to this bill on the Democratic side of the aisle. We believe the Senate should pass it. If there are objections on the Republicans' side, let's take a few days and work through the bill on the floor. We haven't done much legislation. Here is a place at which we can come together in a bipartisan way. So, if there are no objections, great. Let's pass it this afternoon. I believe the Senator from Florida will make a unanimous consent request in that regard. If there are objections, I urge the Republican leader, who has spoken out and defended the protests, to take a few days. Let someone try to invoke cloture—it will fail miserably—and let's vote on this. Then, maybe, the House will pass it. That would be something, I think, that would happen and with the President as well.

In addition, the Senator from Oregon, along with some others, has a bill that U.S. companies shouldn't sell lethal types of equipment to the Hong Kong police that have been used on the protesters. I would hope we could find a way to work that proposal into this bill or, maybe, we could make a unanimous consent request alongside it.

Nonetheless, we should pass the bipartisan bill in the Senate, reconcile it with similar legislation in the House, and quickly send it to the President's desk. It would be the strongest action Congress could take immediately to demonstrate Americans' support for the protests in Hong Kong. It would send a strong and clear message to the ruling party in Beijing. It would make a real difference.

The words on the floor the Republican leader mentioned yesterday were good but were not sufficient. Again, I urge him to move on this legislation, if we can, by unanimous consent. If not, let's have a debate on the floor so the handful of Senators who might try to block it are thwarted, and the bill will move forward.

IMPEACHMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, this morning, during the House's im-

peachment inquiry, the American people will hear more important testimony from LTC Alexander Vindman, of the National Security Council, and from Jennifer Williams, an adviser to the Vice President.

Regrettably, some Republicans, including one in this Chamber, have tried, without evidence or substantiation, to undermine, to call into question, and to smear the credibility of the witnesses, including of Lieutenant Colonel Vindman—a Purple Heart recipient who has spent his life in service to our country. The attacks on the witnesses are painful and wrong. They are reminiscent of the actions of a brutal country, not of the democratic Republic that we are.

I hope everyone will treat these witnesses with respect and listen to their testimony with an open mind. Whether they agree or disagree with their testimony, it is unbecoming of any Senator to smear these patriots. The House has a responsibility to seek the truth and uncover all of the facts, and if it comes to it, the Senate has a responsibility to examine the evidence and render impartial judgment.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, finally, on infrastructure, as the impeachment inquiry continues, the Democrats in both Chambers continue to do the work of the American people. Just last week, my colleagues in the House discussed a proposal for a very significant investment in infrastructure. At the very beginning of the Trump administration, the Senate Democrats proposed a trillion-dollar infrastructure plan that would create 15 million jobs.

At our meeting at the White House, I mentioned this to President Trump and asked him to join us in either supporting our bill or in working to modify it in a way that he might be able to support it. At the time, after promising over and over again in his campaign that he would pursue a major overhaul of our Nation's infrastructure, we had hoped President Trump would have worked with us on specific legislation. Unfortunately and typically, after 3 years into the Trump administration, instead of working with the Democrats, President Trump has done next to nothing. Earlier this year, the President walked out of a meeting on infrastructure that was held between him, Speaker PELOSI, me, and some other Congressmen and Senators. We haven't heard from him on the issue since.

Meanwhile, Leader MCCONNELL has turned the Senate into a legislative graveyard and seems uninterested in any bipartisan, bicameral legislation. It is so typical of this administration—of President Trump. He campaigns on infrastructure and has commercials running right now that say the Democrats are not doing anything on infrastructure when he is the one who is doing nothing. He has an amazing

penchant for looking at his own faults and then of pointing the finger at others and saying those faults are theirs. It is glaring on infrastructure.

The idea that the House impeachment inquiry is some sort of distraction from other issues is plain wrong.

President Trump, we are doing nothing here in the Senate. Come talk to us about infrastructure, and we can get something done.

The Democrats in the House and the Democrats in the Senate are willing to work with our Republican colleagues right now. We have over 200 House-passed bills we could consider here on the floor and have plenty of bipartisan Senate bills besides—from bills to lower the cost of prescription drugs to election security, to the Violence Against Women Act. We would like to work on a large infrastructure bill as well. It is entirely up to President Trump and Leader MCCONNELL to decide if we are going to make progress on a topic like infrastructure or if the Senate, under MCCONNELL's leadership, will continue to be a graveyard for commonsense ideas to help so many millions of Americans.

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert J. Luck, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, our most fundamental responsibility as Members of Congress is to provide for our Nation's defense, and a big part of that is ensuring that our men and women in uniform have the resources