

Stu Evans, the DOJ National Security Division official with oversight of the FISA process, did not even know that Bruce Ohr, another DOJ official, had been in communication with the FBI about the Russia investigation. He didn't know that Ohr had been interviewed by the FBI until he saw the Grassley-Graham referral.

Ultimately, the inspector general was not able to interview everyone involved in the chain of command to the extent that the inspector general wanted to do that. For example, James Comey and Jim Baker, the former FBI general counsel, did not request that their clearances be reinstated for the interviews. Quite obviously, they didn't want to be interviewed. That means the inspector general was unable to ask them classified questions related to their conduct.

Comey claims that he is transparent, but he clearly wasn't in this case. Moreover, Glenn Simpson and Jonathan Winer—the latter a former State Department official—refused to sit for any interviews at all. These individuals played key roles in the Russia investigation. It is a shame that they didn't want to speak up. So can't we legitimately ask: What are they trying to hide? From what I have seen, they are trying to hide an awful lot.

With all that said, the FBI's FISA-related behavior has been so bad that the inspector general has initiated a comprehensive audit that will fully examine the FBI's compliance with the Woods procedures. In the past, when there has been evidence of our government improperly infringing on the civil liberties of American citizens, we as a nation have firmly rejected that course of action. We have taken those moments as real opportunities to strengthen our resolve and to renew our commitment to the values that we all share about our God-given liberties and freedoms.

Under the leadership of J. Edgar Hoover, from about 1920 to 1969, which was when he died, the FBI would wiretap, recruit secret informants, and fix the paperwork in ways that trampled on the rights of ordinary Americans as a matter of practice. In those times of the FBI, it was business as usual. Let's hope it doesn't become business as usual now. That is why, during the 1970s, because of the abuse of J. Edgar Hoover, this Chamber undertook vigorous oversight efforts, under the leadership of the late Senator Frank Church, to shine a light on the excesses and abuses of our intelligence bureaucracy.

Based on what we learned from that inquiry 40 years ago, Congress passed FISA. This legislation establishes protections to ensure that government bureaucrats can't just spy on American citizens willy-nilly, whenever they feel like it. In order to surveil an American citizen, the FBI must acquire a lawful order and do it from a court of law. We give those in the FBI that power along with an expectation that they will do their due diligence in using it.

We have found out now, during this Russia investigation, that those in the FBI—in this decade—did not do that due diligence. We give this with the expectation that they will provide the court full and accurate information, which they didn't provide to the FISA court in regard to the Russia investigation; that they will follow the rule of law and their own internal guidelines; and that they will respect the boundaries Congress has set for them, instead of reverting to the freewheeling and very heavy-handed tactics that they embraced in the past.

Most of the hard-working men and women in our Department of Justice and in our FBI today understand and truly respect these boundaries. However, it seems old habits really die very hard. Politics has crept back into the FBI's work, at least at the highest levels. The actions that were taken by Obama and Comey's FBI sound an awful lot like the ones taken under Hoover.

Where do we go from here? We have to learn from our past mistakes. I have said it before, and I will say it again: Sunlight is the best disinfectant. Transparency brings accountability. It helps us take reasoned steps to ensure that the mistakes of the past will not be repeated in the future.

After what I believe was far too long a wait, I am happy to have finally received this Horowitz report that we call the inspector general's report. I thank IG Horowitz and his staff for all of their hard work. I am pleased to see that much of the inspector general's report is publicly available. Once again, this is due in no small part to President Trump's unprecedented commitment to transparency.

I appreciate the President's willingness to grant Attorney General Barr broad declassification authority, and I appreciate Attorney General Barr's willingness to use that authority to bring much of what happened out into the open. It is an important first step towards ensuring accountability. Of course, there are still many, many unanswered questions.

In going forward, I eagerly await Mr. Durham's findings with respect to how the intelligence community handled its part of the corrupted Russia investigation. Mr. Durham is the U.S. attorney in Connecticut, but he has been awarded by Mr. Barr the responsibility of getting to the bottom of all of these problems that I am talking about now and a lot of other problems. Unlike Horowitz, Mr. Durham has authority to prosecute, and he has already opened criminal investigations.

In the sense of Mr. Durham's work, I view this most recent inspector general's report as just one part in a multi-part act. Durham's public comments make clear that he finds issue with whether the opening of the Russia investigation was properly predicated. His findings may prove critical to finally and fully understanding what happened during the Obama adminis-

tration's fabricated investigation into Trump.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes.

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

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KENTUCKY NEW ERA

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, it is with great pride that I pay tribute to a long-standing community institution in southwestern Kentucky. The Kentucky New Era newspaper recently marked 150 years of quality journalism and community engagement, and I would like to take a moment today to review the paper's distinguished history and celebrate its many achievements.

Prominent Kentucky newsman Chip Hutcheson, whom I am proud to call a dear friend, spent years working for the New Era, and he summed up the reason it has thrived for so long. Chip recalled a paper-wide culture of writing "columns that cemented readers' relationships to the writer and the paper." I think it is that commitment to readers and to what matters in their lives and community that has helped make the New Era the oldest business in Hopkinsville, KY.

Since the paper was launched as a weekly publication in the winter of 1869, the New Era has certainly undergone some change to solidify its relationship with readers. To meet a demand for local, State, and national news, the New Era added a daily issue, and delivered the news and commentary its subscribers wanted to read. Part of that frequent change during the early years came in the form of different owners, but in 1873, Hunter Wood took charge, and his family would steer the New Era as majority owners for the following 130-plus years.

Under their direction, the paper covered a wide range of issues affecting life in Christian County. From politics to agriculture, mixed with lighter community-interest pieces and extensive coverage of high school sports, the New Era has served as an important source of information for its readers. Its staff

would attract several award-winning journalists, including my friend Mary D. Ferguson, who held a high standard on its pages.

Adapting to changing markets, the New Era expanded its operations. To serve the nearby U.S. Army installation, the paper's media group began publishing the Fort Campbell Courier. Other respected local papers, including the Princeton Times Leader, the Providence Journal Enterprise, and Dawson Springs Progress, joined the New Era's organization to further stretch the reach of its community journalism. In whatever form subscribers want to receive their news—in print, online, or even listening to a podcast—the New Era is committed to reporting on the stories that must be told.

Just last year, the paper joined another well-respected Kentucky news institution, the Paxton Media Group. With this partnership, the Kentucky New Era has the ability to continue thriving into the future. Through the years, I have enjoyed reading the paper and speaking with its top-tier professionals, and I look forward to many more accomplishments to come.

It is a privilege to congratulate the Kentucky New Era on its celebration of 150 years of journalistic success, and I hope my Senate colleagues will join me in saluting this community institution on its anniversary. I would like to extend my best wishes to the reporters, editors, and staff who have made the New Era a vital resource in west Kentucky.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN CULLERTON

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, this January, it will be 12 years since Illinois banned smoking in businesses. In 2008, the Smoke-Free Illinois Act went into effect and changed the lives of people throughout the State. There has been a 20-percent decrease in hospitalizations for conditions aggravated by secondhand smoke, like asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and heart attacks. High school smoking rates have fallen more than 53 percent since then. This is real change. My friend, Illinois Senate President John Cullerton, led that fight to save lives. His storied career is one of working for good government and the safety of people. In January, he will be retiring, and I want to take this time to honor him.

John grew up in the village of Winfield in DuPage County. His family has deep roots in Illinois as one of the original settlers in Chicago in 1835. If you are wandering Chicago, you might come across Cullerton Street, which used to be 20th Street. It was named after John's great-grandfather's brother, Edward "Foxy" Cullerton. Edward, originally elected to Chicago city council in 1871, served one of the longest tenures as a Chicago alderman in the city's history. The Cullertons have been a staple of Illinois politics ever since.

Though it may seem like the Cullerton family is just filled with politicians, John's father and paternal grandfather were electricians. In fact, most of his immediate family was not political. John's role model was his maternal grandfather, Tom Tyrell, a real-estate lawyer in Chicago. At 12 years old, John wanted to be a lawyer because of him. His grandfather would give legal lessons at the dinner table. He would cut cherry pie and explain how corporations have shares.

John went to Loyola University Chicago and earned a bachelor's degree in political science. He stayed at Loyola to study law. John also served in the Illinois National Guard from 1970 to 1976. In law school, John experienced firsthand how litigation can bring change. As president of the Loyola University Chicago Student Bar Association, he saw his fellow students draft a complaint against the school for not providing adequate facilities for the law school. The students hired a lawyer and actually negotiated a deal without filing a lawsuit. A few years after John and his classmates graduated, a brand-new law school was built at the corner of Pearson and State in Chicago, which still stands today.

John's first job was working as a Chicago assistant public defender. For 5 years, he was on the frontlines of law defending people. In 1976, John earned his first political experience by being elected to be a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. Though John's immediate family was not very political, his cousin Parky Cullerton was Cook County tax assessor at the time. Parky's influence convinced him that he could run for the Illinois House of Representatives, and he won in 1978.

In 1988, John joined Fagel Haber, which later became Thompson Coburn Fagel Haber, where he still is a partner today. In 1990, John was appointed to fill then-State Senator Dawn Clark Netsch's seat. John won the seat on his own right in 1992, representing the Chicago Cubs' neighborhood of Wrigleyville, but he remained a loyal White Sox fan.

John thrived in the Senate. Between 2003 and 2006, he sponsored more bills and had more bills signed by the Governor than any other legislator. John dedicated himself to things like traffic safety, gun control, reforming the criminal justice system, and tobacco regulation. John would work with anyone for a greater good. He always made it a point of going out to dinner not just with Democratic State senators but with Republican ones too.

In 2008, the senate Democratic caucus chose John to be senate president. Immediately, John prioritized an infrastructure bill that had not passed in 10 years at the time. John has steered the senate through many tough times. He can proudly say that, during his time, Illinois passed two capital funding bills, marriage equality, an abolishment of the death penalty, school funding reform, and immigration reform.

John has encouraged bipartisanship and cooperation through all of it.

For 41 years, John has served with a sense of justice, friendship, and even comedy. He regularly performed at an annual event at the legendary Second City Chicago Theater. His impersonation of then-Mayor Richard J. Daley earned him the crown of Mr. Wonderful from the Conference of Women Legislators in 1979.

John retiring from the senate will allow him to spend more time with his wife Pam and his kids Maggie, Garritt, Carroll, John III, and Josephine, and his three grandchildren. I am privileged to call him a friend and look forward to all the new things he will take on in the future.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

● Ms. HARRIS. Madam President, I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 383 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 479, Richard Ernest Myers II, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

Madam President, I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 384, the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 489, Sherri A. Lydon, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

Madam President, I was absent but had I been present I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 386, the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 533, Patrick J. Bumatay, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

THE OVER-THE-COUNTER MONOGRAPH SAFETY, INNOVATION, AND REFORM ACT

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, today, the Senate passed S. 2740, the Over-the-Counter Monograph Safety, Innovation, and Reform Act of 2019, which will completely overhaul and improve how the Food and Drug Administration—FDA—regulates over-the-counter—OTC—or nonprescription, drugs. These medicines are used by Americans every day, but our regulatory system has been stuck in the 1970s and has not kept pace with innovation or the need to ensure appropriate consumer protections. Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON and I have been working on this legislation since 2016.

This legislation creates a modern regulatory system for OTC drugs, providing the FDA with new resources to be able to review changes to existing OTC drugs and allow the marketing of new OTC drugs. FDA will have the authority to take swift action to protect the American public if a serious problem arises and to make changes to how OTC drugs are allowed to be sold if the science indicates that the steps are necessary to ensure that these products are used safely.