

process back in 1998. He voted against the articles both in the House Judiciary Committee and on the House floor. Listen to this, a major part of his Senate campaign that year was literally promising New Yorkers in advance—in advance—that he would vote to acquit President Clinton.

People asked if it was appropriate for him to prejudice like that. He dismissed the question, saying: “This is not a criminal trial but . . . something the founding fathers decided to put in a body that was susceptible to the whims of politics.” That was the Democratic leader in the 1998 Senate campaign that. That was the newly sworn-in Senator SCHUMER in 1999.

A few weeks later, during the trial itself, Democratic Senator Tom Harkin successfully objected to the use of the word “jurors” to describe Senators because the analogy to a narrow legal proceeding was so inappropriate, according to Senator Harkin.

I respect our friends across the aisle, but it appears that one symptom of Trump derangement syndrome is also a bad case of amnesia—a bad case of amnesia.

No Member of this body needs condescending lectures on fairness from House Democrats who just rushed through the most unfair impeachment in modern history or lectures on impartiality from Senators who happily prejudged the case with President Clinton and simply changed their standards to suit the political winds.

Anyone who knows American history or understands the Constitution knows that a Senator’s role in an impeachment trial is nothing—nothing like the job of jurors in the legal system. The very things that make the Senate the right forum to settle impeachments would disqualify all of us in an ordinary trial. All of us would be disqualified in an ordinary trial.

Like many Americans, Senators have paid great attention to the facts and the arguments that House Democrats have rolled out publicly before the Nation. Many of us personally know the parties on both sides.

This is a political body. We do not stand apart from the issues of the day. It is our job to be deeply engaged in those issues, but—and this is critical—the Senate is unique by design.

The Framers built the Senate to provide a check against short-termism, the runaway passions, and “the demon faction” that Hamilton warned would “extend his sceptre” over the House of Representatives “at certain seasons.”

We exist because the Founders wanted an institution that could stop momentary hysterias and partisan passions from damaging our Republic, an institution that could be thoughtful, be sober, and take the long view.

That is why the Constitution puts the impeachment trial in this place, not because Senators should pretend they are uninformed, unopinionated, or disinterested in the long-term political questions that an impeachment of the

President poses but precisely because we are informed; we are opinionated opinion; and we can take up these weighty questions. That is the meaning of the oath we take. That is the task that lies before us.

“Impartial justice” means making up our minds on the right basis. It means putting aside purely reflective partisanship and putting aside personal relationships and animosities. It means coolly considering the facts that the House has presented and then rendering the verdict we believe is best for our States, our Constitution, and our way of life. It means seeing clearly not what some might wish the House of Representatives had proven but what they actually have or have not proven. It means looking past a single news cycle to see how overturning an election would reverberate for generations.

You better believe Senators have started forming opinions about these critical questions over the last weeks or months. We sure have, especially in light of the precedent-breaking theatrics that House Democrats chose to engage in.

Here is where we are. Their turn is over. They have done enough damage. It is the Senate’s turn now to render sober judgment as the Framers envisioned, but we can’t hold a trial without the articles. The Senate’s own rules don’t provide for that. So, for now, we are content to continue the ordinary business of the Senate while House Democrats continue to flounder—for now.

If they ever muster the courage to stand behind their slapdash work product and transmit their articles to the Senate, it will then be time for the U.S. Senate to fulfill our founding purpose.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 555.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will read the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jovita

Carranza, of Illinois, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDING pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Jovita Carranza, of Illinois, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

Mitch McConnell, John Boozman, Joni Ernst, Kevin Cramer, David Perdue, Steve Daines, Thom Tillis, Roger F. Wicker, James E. Risch, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Lisa Murkowski, Pat Roberts, Richard C. Shelby, Deb Fischer, James Lankford, Chuck Grassley, Mike Rounds.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. 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 each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3148

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3148) to amend the Controlled Substances Act to list fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceeding.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. An objection being heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar on the next legislative day.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand the Chair received a letter of resignation of the former Senator