

colleagues: "How many times are we going to get a shot at a trillion-dollar-plus program?" Right here on the floor last night: "I don't know how many trillion-plus packages we are going to have." In other words, let's don't waste this opportunity to take full advantage and get our whole wish list done.

They ought to be embarrassed. In fact, I have heard from some of them who are embarrassed, talking like this is some juicy political opportunity. This is not a juicy political opportunity. This is a national emergency.

We had days of productive, bipartisan talks to get to this point. Senate Democrats sat down with Senate Republicans and negotiated furiously to get to this point. The bill now contains a huge number of changes that our Democratic colleagues requested, including major changes. We were this close—this close.

Then, yesterday morning, the Speaker of the House flew back from San Francisco, and suddenly the Senate's serious bipartisan process turned into this leftwing episode of "Supermarket Sweep"—unrelated issues, left and right.

I will tell you what would really lower our carbon footprint. If the entire economy continues to crumble, with hundreds of thousands more Americans laid off because Senate Democrats will not let us act, that will lower our carbon footprint all right. Every single American outside of Washington knows this is no time for this nonsense.

A surgeon in Fresno, CA, says: "We are at war with no ammo." "We are at war with no ammo." That is a surgeon in Fresno. An intensive care nurse in New York City says: "If we don't get the proper equipment soon, we're going to get sick."

Democrats are filibustering more masks and aid for hospitals. Every day, more Americans wake up to the news that their jobs are gone—their jobs are gone. Democrats are filibustering programs to keep people on the payroll, and they are filibustering a huge expansion of unemployment insurance, which they themselves negotiated and put into the bill. Hundreds of dollars extra per week for laid-off workers on top of existing unemployment benefits, and Democrats are blocking it?

This has to stop, and today is the day it has to stop. The country is out of time—out of time. When the Democratic House passed their phase 2 bill, even though Senate Republicans would have written it very differently, we sped it through the Senate and passed it quickly without even amending it. I literally told my colleagues to "gag and vote for it," for the sake of building bipartisan momentum, because Republicans understand that a national crisis calls for urgency and it calls for bipartisanship.

It is time for that good faith to be reciprocated. It is time for Democrats to stop playing politics and step up to the plate. The small businesses in their

own States deserve it. Their own States' emergency room doctors deserve it. Their own constituents who have lost their jobs deserve it.

In my home State of Kentucky, the Governor has effectively paused commerce across the State, and our unemployment system crashed due to demand. Kentuckians need help now, and we aren't alone. I have heard the pleas from healthcare workers in New York and Seattle. I have listened to the small business owners crying out in Brooklyn and Chicago.

Why does only one side understand that this is urgent? Why are these hard-hit cities' own Senators happy to keep this slow-walking going on indefinitely? Is that really something these folks on the other side are comfortable with—indeinitely slow-walking all of this? How can half the Senate not rise to the occasion? At a time when everybody else in the country is pulling together, they are pulling us apart.

The examples are all over the country that we ought to look to: healthcare heroes, to neighborhood volunteers, to national industries. Everybody is unifying and pitching in. What about here in the Senate?

It is time to get with the program. It is time to pass historic relief that we have built together. The country doesn't have time for these political games. They need progress.

So we are going to vote in just a few minutes, and I assure you the American people will be watching.

Mr. DURBIN. 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. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. DURBIN. Yes, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader objects. Objection is heard.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, every time we hear the majority leader come out, it is a partisan screed. I am in my office with the President's Secretary of Treasury, the President's congressional liaison, getting things done. We Democrats are trying to get things done, not making partisan speech after partisan speech.

In the past 24 hours, we got word that a Member of this Chamber, Senator PAUL, has tested positive for coronavirus, and the husband of another Member, Senator KLOBUCHAR, also tested positive. He is in the hospital. I want to let them know—both of them—that the Senate is thinking of them and praying for their speedy recovery, as we are for tens of thousands of American families who are confronting the same situation right now.

Whether you are afraid for a sick family member, an older relative in the hospital, or struggling without work, income, or the knowledge of when your isolation might end, our thoughts are with you right now. These are trying times for all of us, but the scourge of this disease will pass. The American people, as always, will prevail.

As the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the United States eclipses 35,000, the Senate continues to negotiate what will likely be the largest emergency funding bill in American history. As I have mentioned, we have had almost continuous discussions with Secretary Mnuchin. He left my office at about 12:15 last night and was there at about 9 o'clock this morning. The White House congressional liaison, Eric Ueland, has been in and out of the office as well. We are very close to reaching a deal—very close. Our goal is to reach a deal today, and we are hopeful, even confident, that we will meet that goal.

We have been working on a few outstanding issues that are no surprise to everyone. From the very beginning, Democrats have insisted on a Marshall Plan for our medical system, more money for hospitals, community health centers, nursing homes, and urgent medical supplies, such as gloves and masks, ICU beds, testing kits, ventilators, and PPE. Since our negotiations, the numbers have gone up dramatically because the hospitals and our healthcare workers need the help.

We are fighting hard and making progress on funding for State and local governments. They are propping up local healthcare networks virtually on their own. Their revenues are dramatically declining. Many towns and villages across America—the smaller ones in particular—might go broke pretty soon if we do nothing. If we can help the big corporations, we can help our local towns and villages and the taxpayers they represent.

On unemployment insurance, the bill has moved in the direction we have outlined. The original bill has the unexpanded employment benefits last only 3 months. We need to make it longer because the dislocation caused by this crisis will not be over in 90 days, and people who lose their jobs need help. It says to every American who loses his or her job—the Democratic plan that is now in the bill: You will get your full pay from the Federal Government. You can be furloughed by your employer. That means you will keep your benefits, health and otherwise. And it means that you will be

able to come back, and the business you had to leave can reassemble itself quickly after, God willing, this crisis ends.

The bill still includes something that most Americans don't want to see: large corporate bailouts with almost no strings attached. Maybe the majority leader thinks it is unfair to have protections for workers and labor to companies that are getting hundreds of billions of dollars. We think it is very fair to ask for those. Those are not extraneous issues. That is a wish list for workers—nobody else.

We are looking for protection. We are looking for oversight. If this Federal Government is making a big loan to someone—to a big company, we ought to know it and know the details immediately. The bill that was put on the floor by the Republican leader said no one would know a thing about those loans for 6 months at least. In those so-called bailouts, we need to protect workers—the workers those industries employ.

We have been guided by one plan: workers first. That is the name of our proposal. The bill needs to reflect that priority.

We are working on all of these items in good faith as we speak, and we hope and expect to conclude negotiations today. This vote the Senate—it is no surprise—is about to take is merely a repeat of the vote that failed last night. Leader MCCONNELL continues to set arbitrary vote deadlines when the matter of real importance is the status of the bipartisan negotiations.

Let me be clear. The upcoming procedural votes are essentially irrelevant. The negotiations continue no more than 30 feet away from the floor of the Senate in our offices, where the real progress is taking place. Once we have an agreement that everyone can get behind, we are prepared to speed up the consideration of that agreement on the floor. So I am going to get back to negotiations.

We all know time is of the essence. The country is facing twin crises in our healthcare system and in our economy. We have an obligation to get the details right and get them done quickly. That doesn't mean blindly accepting a Republican-only bill. That was the bill we were given. There were lots of things we didn't even know about on Saturday. That means working to make this bill better—better for our small businesses, better for our working families, better for our healthcare system.

Democrats—Democrats—will not stop working with our Republican counterparts until we get the job done. I will continue to update the Senate on the progress of our negotiations.

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.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SCHUMER. I object. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader's objection is heard. Ms. COLLINS. This is unbelievable.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Maine be allowed to speak for a few minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in a quorum call.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SCHUMER. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader's objection is heard.

Mr. COTTON. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SCHUMER. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader's objection is heard. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. I would simply like to know for the sake of the Members—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in a quorum call.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent to speak for 30 seconds.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. RISCH. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in a quorum call.

Is there an objection to removing the quorum call?

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection to removing the quorum call?

Mr. SCHUMER. Reserving the right to object—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no right to reserve the right to object.

Mr. SCHUMER. I have the floor. I would ask—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. No, you do not.

The Senate is in a quorum call. You have to ask that the quorum call—

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I would simply like to ask the leader—before we have these speeches, because we were supposed to vote for the next time after he and I spoke—what is the schedule for the rest of the day?

Will he respond?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it is my understanding that they are going to let us voice vote this.

Mr. SCHUMER. We have no objection to voice voting the first two and then would like to vote, if the leader wants, now on the third, and then we can have the speeches.

Mr. MCCONNELL. What you are proposing is that we voice vote two, and then the cloture vote occurs automatically?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Parliamentary inquiry: Does the cloture vote occur—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Yes. The cloture vote pops and occurs third automatically.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I propose we voice vote the first two and then pause so that there are some speeches allowed by Members—up to an hour of speeches allowed by Members before the cloture vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. I have no objection to that. As long as we have a schedule, I have no objection to that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The understanding of the Chair is that there will be voice votes on the first two motions, and then there will be an hour of debate equally divided. There will be an hour of debate prior to a vote on the cloture motion upon reconsideration.

Mr. MANCHIN. Equally divided? An hour on both sides?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. That is fine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The understanding of the Chair is that the request is that the hour of debate would be equally divided prior to the cloture vote on the motion to proceed.

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MIDDLE CLASS HEALTH BENEFITS TAX REPEAL ACT OF 2019—Motion to Proceed—Resumed

MOTION TO RECONSIDER—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the motion to proceed to H.R. 748.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote by which the cloture was not invoked on the motion to proceed to H.R. 748.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now an hour of debate equally divided under the previous order.

The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I also ask that the vote be 30 minutes in length.