

appointed Chairman of the Federal Reserve is saying that those costs are likely greater than the costs of any relief bill. When will our Republican Senate colleagues start to get the message?

Looking at the floor of the U.S. Senate, you would never guess that we are in the middle of a national economic crisis. For 3 weeks, Leader MCCONNELL has not scheduled any legislative business related to the coronavirus. Senate Republican leadership is not even discussing their response to COVID-4 in the House.

Instead, this week, the Republican leader has scheduled five rightwing judges for the floor of the Senate. The Republican chairman of the Homeland Security Committee will hold a hearing tomorrow designed to slander the family of the President's political opponent, delving into a Kremlin-concocted conspiracy theory that has no truth and fell over like a dud in the impeachment hearing. Last night, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee announced that his committee will soon consider subpoenas relating to another conspiracy theory pushed by President Trump, this time to try and rewrite the history of Russian interference in the 2016 election to match the fantasy in President Trump's head. What does Leader MCCONNELL devote more of his floor remarks to today? That wild conspiracy theory aimed at somehow smearing the fine reputation that President Obama has well deserved. It is amazing that was the bulk of the speech.

Leader MCCONNELL, stop listening to President Trump and his wild theories and listen to the American people. We need action. We need action now. Every day, every week, and now almost every month we wait. The recession gets deeper and worse. More people are unemployed. More people lose their jobs, more small businesses are in jeopardy, and we are talking about some wild theory because President Trump demanded it, when everyone knows the President's penchant for truth is at a bare minimum, as exemplified by his hydroxychloroquine comments last night.

Wow. This is unbelievable. In the midst of historic unemployment and economic and health tragedy, Senate Republicans are using their majority to simply block and tackle for the President's reelection campaign. Senate Republicans are using their majority not to tackle the COVID crisis but to block and tackle for the President's reelection campaign. In the midst of a public health crisis, Senate Republicans are diving headfirst into the muck to smear the family—the family—of the President's political opponent.

It is such a gross misuse of the power of the majority. We were sent here to do the Nation's business. At the moment, that means helping our constituents through a time of immense challenge and hardship, but Senate Repub-

licans are using their committees to hold fishing expeditions dictated by the President's Twitter feed, which even his supporters don't usually believe.

If anyone doubts this is about politics; that this is about Senate Republicans doing the bidding of President Trump's personal political agenda, just remember what House Minority Leader MCCARTHY said before the last Presidential election. Leader MCCARTHY went on FOX News bragging that the Republicans put together a Benghazi select committee to bring Hillary Clinton's poll numbers down. Now Senate Republicans are using the same playbook to smear President Trump's political opponents once again. It will not work.

The American people know it is a crisis. They know the Republicans are doing nothing right now. They know that this is political folderol to please President Trump and will not solve America's problems. Rightfully, many Americans are just furious at Senate Republicans using their majority to pursue the President's political agenda in a time of national crisis.

The President is tweeting insane conspiracy theories, demanding that his water carriers on Capitol Hill make them look legitimate. Instead of focusing on testing capacity and policies to safely reopen our country to help so many individuals and businesses that are in need, the President is telling the press that he has taken an unproven treatment, hydroxychloroquine, for a disease he doesn't have. That is reckless.

Please, citizens of America, don't take hydroxychloroquine as a prevention for COVID, and medical experts have said it is not. Remember, it is risky. The FDA has said it has risks. This is a medicine that experts say, at best, may not be effective in treating or preventing COVID-19 and, at worst, causes serious heart problems in patients with certain conditions.

It is astonishingly reckless. I don't know why the President did it. Maybe he has family or friends who stand to benefit from the popularity of this drug. It wouldn't be unlike the President that someone called him who said it is a great drug, and he just talks about it. He has no penchant for research or science or even truth. It just pops into his head, and he thinks it sounds good. He thinks it is a diversion from his failures—which are so many—for dealing with COVID. He just says it. He doesn't care if it hurts people. He just says it. But I do know this. If the President was focused on testing or production of PPE or fashioning a careful plan to reopen the country instead of pushing quack medicines and inventing new conspiracies, the country would be in far better shape than it is today, and the country knows it.

The majority of Americans don't trust the President to handle this crisis, and Senate Republicans just say how high when he says jump, no matter how off base, false, or unrelated to COVID his theories are.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE DiSILVESTRO

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I would like to echo the kind words said by the majority leader about Mike DiSilvestro as he prepares to head into retirement on Friday after 37 years of service to the U.S. Senate.

Mike serves as director of the Office of Senate Security and is in charge of the secure facility here in the Capitol where Senators can receive classified briefings and review sensitive documents. There are very few individuals who have given as much time and attention to this institution as Mike with so little recognition or fanfare—such is the nature of the job—but on the cusp of his retirement, I hope he will allow us to pay him a few compliments.

Mike's counsel is wise. His word can be trusted implicitly. His focus is always on serving the institution, never on politics or party. His judgment and guidance have always been excellent, and he did not rely on subtlety. When you walk into the Senate's secure facility, you pass a World War II-era poster reminding you that "loose lips sink ships." His job has had many difficult responsibilities, and Mike was never more valuable or trusted than in difficult times.

He tracked down absent Senators on 9/11. He comforted terrified staff waiting to be decontaminated after ricin was discovered in Senator Frist's mailroom. During the anthrax incident, he donned a biohazard suit and entered the contaminated Hart building to retrieve vital documents from Senator Daschle's office. Even now, in the middle of a public health crisis, Mike has faithfully reported to duty to make sure this institution is able to complete its constitutional work.

I know he is finding this attention on the floor today uncomfortable. I don't know if he is still here. Yes, sorry for all the flattery, but it is well deserved. He is accustomed to working entirely outside the limelight. He will never be quoted in the paper, and I suspect he will never write a tell-all book about his time in the Senate, but for those of us here, Senators and staffers alike, we will long remember his sense of humor, his devotion to family, his work ethic, and his strong, principled leadership.

There are only a very few staffers who are both known and respected by every single Senator. Mike is one of the few. His absence will be felt by all of us.

Mike, I wish you well. I hope you finally get to play all the golf you want, complete the Appalachian Trail, and that you enjoy every day of your well-earned retirement. Congratulations.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.