

the reaction that they had toward the military and to that form of government was not “thank you for your service.” It was “you scare me to death.” There was military on every corner with automatic weapons. There were roundups, and they would do an organized draft. Sometimes they would just surround a movie theater, and as young men would come out, they would commandeer them to go into the military.

I experienced something so different from what I experience here, which was a society in which your first reaction when you see somebody in uniform—in the military—is fear. You are afraid of him. We would never want that to be the prevailing attitude here. We would want our attitude here to be “thanks for your service.”

I believe my amendment, now incorporated in the NDAA, will preserve the important roles that the military plays, preserve the important principles of peaceful assembly, petitioning government, First Amendment, but we will also make sure that we as a society don’t find, by pitting the military against civilians, that we will be led to a situation where we will not be able to fully appreciate the sacrifices they make and the work they do for us.

I am excited that the bill on the floor now contains this provision and hope my colleagues will promptly and quickly pass the NDAA.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The Senator from Wyoming.

JOBS REPORT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, as I come to the floor today, we have just seen incredible record-setting job numbers. It is wonderful news for American workers, for families all across the country. It is a stellar June jobs report.

The U.S. economy added 4.8 million jobs, shattering all expectations. It is the largest monthly jobs gain in our Nation’s history.

So if you flip through the channels this morning, Mr. President—and I did see you on one of the morning shows, doing a wonderful job, as you always do, talking about your home State, talking about our Nation—but these were some of the comments today about the jobs numbers:

CNBC’s Jim Cramer said: “There’s an optimism in the country . . . people are hiring.”

Ed Lawrence at FOX Business said: “This is amazing. A good report anywhere you look at it.”

Becky Quick, CNBC, said it was a “trend from across the board of pretty strong numbers.”

Stephanie Ruhle of NBC said it was a “big positive.”

Charles Payne, FOX Business, said: “Even though the economists keep saying it’s impossible,” the numbers are terrific.

Steve Liesman, CNBC, said: “Bring-ing a lot of folks back.”

Christine Romans of CNN: “Big hiring.”

Rick Santelli of CNBC: “Really solid numbers.”

So good news. Americans are getting back to work, and we need to make sure that we reopen responsibly, smartly, safely—the sorts of things you were talking about—knowing what to do, how to do it, how to do it right because the health and safety, as you mentioned, of our families is important, and it includes economic health as well, and we have that report today with a stellar jobs report.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. President, I also want to point out today that yesterday the Democrats in the House passed their 100-percent partisan version of a highway infrastructure bill. They co-opted a bipartisan issue, completely cut out Republicans—completely cut them out of the conversation.

Not only that, but House Democrats added a laundry list of really leftwing proposals in what they passed yesterday in the House.

In a sense, it is “Groundhog’s Day” for the Green New Deal. This far-left fantasy has become a recurring nightmare, and we saw it yesterday on the floor of the House of Representatives.

The Democrats must be taking their cue from Joe Biden. The Biden campaign is promoting the Green New Deal, as he said, a “crucial framework.”

Biden has put the Green New Deal author, Representative ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ, in charge of his climate task force. This is where the Democrats want to take the country.

The truth is, Joe Biden has just now become the Trojan horse for the far, far left.

House Democrats’ partisan highway bill, to me, is a road to nowhere. It is going to see no light of day in the U.S. Senate.

Infrastructure must be bipartisan, especially now. The House should follow the Senate’s lead. Senate Republicans, in the majority, have worked across the aisle with our Democratic colleagues to make this serious issue into policy that is good for all of America, and our bipartisan bill is ready to go.

America’s Transportation Infrastructure Act passed the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, the committee I chair, unanimously, 21 to 0. The landmark legislation will fix our Nation’s roads, bridges, and tunnels.

Now, we invest but \$287 billion in our highways over 5 years. That is a 27-percent increase over current highway funding, and it is important. It is especially critical to our economic recovery today.

We still have close to 20 million Americans out of work due to the coronavirus-related lockdowns. Jump-starting highway projects is going to speed the recovery, and it will help fuel job creation.

Our bill benefits the entire country—both urban areas and rural areas. That

is why we worked together in a bipartisan way. I will tell you, when I say it is overwhelmingly bipartisan, it is because we have both BERNIE SANDERS and President Trump supporting it. In fact, President Trump called on Congress to pass the Senate highway bill in his State of the Union Address.

No question, it is the right medicine for our roads. It cuts redtape to speed up construction. It makes our roads safer, stronger, actually, as well, because of the reinforcement efforts, and it sends money directly to States so people can get back to work.

Americans deserve a safe, reliable, efficient transportation system. So the Democrats in the House of Representatives need to get serious. Their 100-percent partisan bill is going nowhere.

It does seem that the Democrats in the House are all about politics and nothing about progress—the progress we need to make as a country. They are over there pushing socialism, and right here we are pushing solutions.

The country needs less grandstanding, and it needs more governing. So I am going to continue to work across the aisle. We will work with the administration and will not quit until our bipartisan highway infrastructure bill passes and becomes law. Together, we can rebuild America.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. President, now to the issue today on the floor of the U.S. Senate. We are considering critical national security legislation.

The National Defense Authorization Act, NDAA, lays out America’s defense priorities for the coming years. The NDAA supports our brave service men and women, and it sets policies to defend our Nation.

The investments made through this bill safeguard our country from foreign threats, and there are many. This is why the NDAA has, over the years, become must-pass legislation.

In fact, the Defense policy bill has passed every year for decades. The Senate continues this proud tradition in taking up this, the 60th annual, National Defense Authorization Act.

This legislation is bipartisan to its core. It reflects equal input from Republicans and Democrats. The Senate Armed Services Committee adopted 229 bipartisan amendments before approving the legislation this month by a vote in committee of 25 to 2.

The NDAA will ensure a smart, strong, strategic defense for our Nation, and it will maintain America’s dominance in a dangerous world.

The bill supports \$741 billion in fiscal year 2021 defense funding, and that is in line with the bipartisan Budget Act of 2019. It implements the national defense strategy to promote a strong military deterrent and to strive for a lasting peace.

You have seen it, Mr. President, and you have discussed it—with the world distracted, China has become emboldened. The Chinese military has stepped up its aggression against its neighbors and in the South China Sea.