

of extreme judicial nominees humming along and did little else.

Now, after an interminable delay, the Senate Republicans have finally admitted that the country needs relief, but they can't even get their act together to produce a halfway legitimate legislative proposal. We all witnessed a week and a half of infighting on the Republican side as the country careened toward several cliffs created by Republican delay. The Republicans bickered amongst themselves as the moratorium on evictions expired, State and local governments shed jobs and cut public services, and the last enhanced unemployment checks went out the door.

When the Republicans finally convinced themselves they were ready to unveil a plan, instead of presenting a single, coherent bill, the Republicans released several incongruent drafts that were littered with corporate giveaways, K Street handouts, and Presidential pet projects.

Some Republicans proposed billions of dollars for large agribusinesses and defense contractors but not a dime to help American families stay in their homes. The Republican bill has a tax break for three-martini lunches but no food assistance for hungry kids. There is \$2 billion for a new FBI building, the location of which will increase the value of the Trump hotel, but no funding to help State and local governments retain teachers, firefighters, busdrivers, and other public employees. There is no support for Medicaid, for nursing homes, or for those with disabilities.

The proposals to support our health system and to meet our testing needs are wildly insufficient.

If you are one of the 20 to 30 million Americans who lost their jobs through no fault of their own and you can't find work, Senate Republicans think you have it too good right now. You should take a 30-percent pay cut, Republicans are saying.

This is not a serious proposal for a country in the midst of a once-in-a-generation crisis. So, as you can imagine, when reviews started rolling in yesterday, they weren't too positive. One Republican Senator said: "There are 100 problems with the plan." Another Republican: "It is a mess. I can't figure out what this bill is about." Another Republican of this Chamber said: "You look at the package that was rolled out by the Republican leadership, and it contains virtually nothing that will actually aid in the recovery." Those would be harsh criticisms if they came from Democrats, but those quotes weren't from Democrats; those were Republican Senators talking about their own party's plan.

Two senior Republican Senators have said that the Republican proposal would be lucky to get even half of the Republican conference to vote for it. Leader MCCONNELL warned Democrats against blocking the Republican proposal. It turns out that Senate Repub-

licans are blocking the Republican proposal.

So it is abundantly clear that the Senate Republican proposal for the next phase of COVID relief is not a useful starting point. You don't have to take my word for it; just ask President Trump, who took the podium yesterday afternoon and called the Senate Republican proposal "semi-irrelevant." At this point, I am beginning to wonder who does support the Republican proposal on COVID-19.

So here is where we are. We need to turn the page on the Republican proposal—and quickly. The legislative train wreck by Senate Republicans cannot derail our efforts to provide urgent, comprehensive, and necessary relief to the American people.

Speaker PELOSI and I have started negotiating with Chief of Staff Meadows and Secretary Mnuchin. We want to work with our Republican colleagues and the White House on a bill that actually meets the needs of the American people in these unprecedented times, but it is going to take good faith and compromise. We are not hearing that from Leader MCCONNELL.

Leader MCCONNELL is already drawing lines in the sand, insisting that any agreements include his specific corporate immunity provision—no negotiation. Put this provision—extreme provision—in the bill without negotiation. That sure doesn't sound like someone who wants to reach a bipartisan agreement. We are going to need everyone to pull together. We are going to need to focus on the needs of the American people.

With all due respect to the Republican leader, Americans on the brink of eviction are not crying out for a sweeping corporate liability shield. No one should be willing to torpedo all the relief Americans are counting on unless there is a giant corporate giveaway attached.

Time is short. Speaker PELOSI and I will be back at the negotiating table with the White House later today. It is time for our Republican colleagues to roll up their sleeves and get serious as well.

One final point on this subject. Again this morning, the Republican leader continued his "Alice in Wonderland" interpretation of what has happened. When what has happened is black, he says white. When what has happened is white, he says black. He is totally the opposite of the truth on what has happened.

He has suggested that Democrats might be trying to block progress on COVID relief because it might suit our party in the election, that we Democrats had decided to stop legislating until November—I mean, shocking stuff.

Over 10 weeks ago, Democrats—Democrats—passed a bill three times the size of the Republican proposal that was more generous and beneficial to the American people on nearly every measure. Leader MCCONNELL dismissed

it. Senate Democrats spent the entire month of June asking our Republican colleagues, including Leader MCCONNELL, to pass crucial legislation related to jobs, healthcare, and small business. We went on the floor and made those requests. Republicans blocked every single one—nearly every single one of those requests. So this absurd, nasty insinuation by the Republican leader doesn't pass the laugh test.

The fact that Leader MCCONNELL would even consider the idea that a political party might deny support for the American people in order to help win an election says more about the Republican leader than anybody else.

NLRB NOMINATIONS

On another matter, today the Senate will vote on two nominations to the NLRB—the National Labor Relations Board—one nominee from the Republican side and another from the Democratic side. On bipartisan boards and commissions like the NLRB, this used to be the tradition. The President's party always enjoys a majority on these boards, but it is crucial for the opposite party, whoever it is at the time, to have their recommendations approved to these bipartisan boards.

Unfortunately, the vote comes today after more than 2 years during which the Republican majority refused to even schedule a vote on a Democratic nominee to the NLRB, Mark Pearce. The Republicans waited so long that both Democratic nominees who were already on the NLRB had their terms expire.

While Democrats look forward to confirming Lauren McGarity McFerran to the NLRB later today, we are still frustrated that the Republican majority denied any Democratic representation on the Board for too long, and they continue to deny a vote on the second Democratic seat.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I intend to talk about section 230 here in just a moment. I just want to react to what the Democratic leader said and also make some observations generally about where I think we are with respect to a coronavirus relief bill.

The Democratic leader indicated that the Republican bill wasn't a serious bill. Frankly, I think it could be argued that the bill he has endorsed, passed by the House of Representatives, was not a serious bill. It was about \$3.5 trillion, which would make it about \$1 trillion larger than the massive coronavirus relief bill we passed unanimously in the Senate back in March. That bill, at the time, for a lot of people, represented something unlike anything they had ever seen before, both in terms of scale and scope, the expanse of all the issues that it addressed. I think in many respects it was a bill that most Members believed at the time that we needed to get as much assistance out there as quickly