

our soil who have deployed throughout the War on Terror. The special operators of the 160th, the Night Stalkers, based at Fort Campbell, KY, handled the very first airborne insertion of Army troops in mid-October—a dangerous fight over the Hindu Kush mountains. The soldiers they carried were from the famed 5th Special Forces Group, also based at Fort Campbell, who formed the tip of the spear to unleash the might of America on the terrorists and their Taliban hosts. The famous 101st Airborne, also at Fort Campbell, became the first conventional unit on the ground just days later.

Fast-forward a decade, and the Night Stalkers were helicoptering over Afghanistan yet again. They inserted and extracted SEAL Team Six the night we took Osama bin Laden off the battlefield.

Thousands more servicemembers deployed from Kentucky's Fort Knox and Fort Campbell during the War on Terror, and more than 18,000 soldiers and airmen from the Kentucky National Guard had been mobilized to defend our Nation.

Fighting by our side for nearly 20 years now have been our friends and NATO allies. America's friends invoked article 5 right away and have fought alongside us to defeat this global threat.

That dark day occasioned brave contributions from so many—from the firefighters who sprinted through the smoke to the citizens who donated blood and flew our flag, to the young men and women who are stationed thousands of miles from home right now to help our Nation project power and protect our homeland.

We did what Americans do. We stayed strong. We stuck together. We rolled up our sleeves, and we rebuilt. Some rebuilt their lives. Others rebuilt buildings. Some put on the uniform and rebuilt peace and security with their own hands.

May we never fail to honor them, and may we never tire of the toughness, vigilance, and persistence it has taken—and will continue to take—to make our pledge, “Never Again,” a reality.

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Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on an entirely different matter, Congress has spent months talking—talking—about whether to give the American people more relief as they continue grappling with this pandemic.

Today we are going to vote.

Today we are going to vote. Every Senator will be counted. Should we move forward with the floor process to deliver hundreds of billions of dollars more for kids, jobs, and healthcare? Should we at least vote to move forward and have this debate out in the open? Or do our Democratic colleagues prefer to hide behind closed doors and refuse to help families before the election?

Well, we will find out in a couple of hours.

Republicans have tried repeatedly to build on the CARES Act and get more help out the door to American families. Democrats have blocked us at every turn. They have invented different excuses each time.

A few months ago, Speaker PELOSI wrote a massive multitrillion-dollar liberal wish list that even her own House Democratic Members said would never become law.

“The HEROES Act went too far.” A “political wish list.” These are quotes from House Democrats.

But in July, when the Senate Republicans put forward a serious offer, Speaker PELOSI and the Democratic leader said they would not even talk—not even talk—unless we started with that unserious bill. No help for families unless they got to pass the absurd bill their own Democratic Members have ridiculed.

So, in August, Republicans tried something else. We proposed breaking off some of the most urgent, most bipartisan policies and agreeing wherever we could: unemployment insurance, the Paycheck Protection Program. But Speaker PELOSI and the Democratic leader blocked that too. They said they didn't want to do anything “piece-meal.” “Piecemeal,” they said.

Then, just a few weeks later, Speaker PELOSI completely contradicted herself and rushed back to Washington to pass a total piecemeal bill that only helped the Postal Service and did nothing for working families—contradiction after contradiction, excuse after excuse, while working families have suffered and waited and wondered whether Washington Democrats really care more about hurting President Trump than helping them through this crisis.

My Democratic colleagues should stand up and tell the American people which elements of our multihundred-billion-dollar proposal they actually oppose.

Let me say that again. They should stand up and tell the American people which parts of the proposal we will vote on later today that they are actually against.

Today, we are going to vote to extend the Federal unemployment insurance. Will Democrats vote against that?

Thanks to Senator COLLINS and Chairman RUBIO, we are going to vote on a whole second round of the PPP for hard-hit businesses. Are the Democrats against that?

Thanks to colleagues such as Senators ERNST, DAINES, GARDNER, and SULLIVAN, we will be voting on help for small businesses like farms and fisheries. Thanks to Senator CORNYN, we will be voting on commonsense legal protections that universities and non-profits have been asking for. Who are the Democrats excited to vote against—the farmers or the university presidents?

Thanks to Chairman ALEXANDER and Senator BLUNT, we are going to vote on

an incredibly robust package for education and healthcare to get kids back in school safely and then defeat this virus through science. We will be voting on \$105 billion for education, more than House Democrats put on their bill; billions on testing and tracing; and even more support for vaccines.

Thanks to a number of our colleagues, including Senators ERNST and LOEFFLER, there is new support for childcare, plus other arrangements like homeschooling, thanks to Senator CRUZ.

Are Democrats going to vote against childcare and education during a pandemic because they are afraid the Republicans might get some credit? Really? They are going to vote against finding and distributing vaccines because they are afraid the breakthrough that our Nation is praying for might possibly help President Trump?

These are the policies that every one of us will be voting on in a couple of hours—these and many more.

Speaker PELOSI and the Democratic leader can keep up their frantic political spin. They can keep trying to make this an abstract argument over leverage or an infinite set of things that aren't in the bill or whether the White House Chief of Staff has been polite to them or whatever new excuse they will settle on today. But none of that is what we are going to vote on. We are going to vote on policy.

Today, every Senator will either say they want to send families the relief we can agree to or they can send families nothing—nothing.

Reporters asked the Democratic leader yesterday if his stonewalling was making the perfect the enemy of the good. He replied—listen to this—“Republicans are the enemy of the good.” “Republicans are the enemy.” That is what he said.

We have all heard the saying that a gaffe is when a politician accidentally says what he really thinks. That is a Washington gaffe, when a politician actually says what he really thinks. Well, the Democratic leader just told us how poisonous his thinking has become.

The Americans we represent, however they vote, know that Republicans aren't our enemies and Democrats aren't our enemies. The coronavirus is the enemy. The coronavirus is the enemy.

My home State just passed a sad milestone yesterday. More than 1,000 Kentuckians have lost their lives to COVID-19. These families I represent are not burying their loved ones because Republicans or Democrats are the enemy. They are burying their loved ones because of this virus. That is what we are fighting. That is what families are dealing with. We are not each other's enemies. We are all in this together, just like we were back in March and April.

So, today, every Senator is going to vote. Every Senator is going to vote. Senators who share the Democratic leader's toxic attitude, who think the

real enemies are their political opponents, I assume, will follow his lead and vote no. They can tell American families they care more about politics than helping them.

But Senators who want to move forward will vote yes. They will vote to advance this process so we can shape it into a bipartisan product and make a law for the American people. That is what working families need. They need us to act. They need us to legislate. Today, they will see exactly who has their backs.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Hala Y. Jarbou, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, once again this week, Republicans are bringing forward a proposal to provide additional coronavirus relief to help protect jobs, to get kids and teachers back in the classroom safely, and to provide funding for the treatments and vaccines we need to defeat this virus, and once again, Democrats are objecting. It is the same old song: Republicans' bill doesn't spend enough. Well, let's talk about that for a minute.

First of all, Republicans are not claiming that the bill we put on the floor this week contains the last dollars we will need to spend in response to the coronavirus. We may need to spend more. This bill is simply an attempt to direct relief funds to some of the biggest priorities right now, like helping the hardest hit small businesses weather this crisis and providing more resources for testing, treatment, and vaccines. These are areas we should all agree on.

Second of all, Democrats' coronavirus proposal—the \$3 trillion bill they proposed—is both unrealistic and irresponsible.

Our Nation is deeply, deeply in debt right now. Next year, our country will owe more than we produce for the first time since the end of World War II. That is a very bad place to be. That is getting toward the kind of debt-to-GDP ratio that helped bring about financial disaster in Greece. While the United States is not Greece, if we grow our debt enough, what happened to the Greek economy could happen here.

Being the United States of America does not exempt us from financial realities. In times of crisis, sometimes you have to borrow money, and that is what we had to do earlier this year with the CARES Act and other coronavirus relief legislation. But we have an absolute responsibility to every American, to every hard-working individual in this country to ensure that we are only borrowing what is absolutely necessary.

Democrats' proposal doesn't even come close to meeting the definition of "necessary spending." To give just one example, Democrats have proposed appropriating a staggering \$1 trillion for States even though the States still—still—haven't spent the money we provided for them in the original CARES Act. Now, it is certainly possible that at some point, we will have to provide some kind of additional assistance to States, but to create a trillion-dollar slush fund for States before they have even spent the money they have already been given would be an incredibly irresponsible use of taxpayer dollars. At least some of that money could be used for coronavirus relief.

Other money in the Democrats' bill would go to measures that have nothing—absolutely nothing—to do with the virus, things like diversity studies in the cannabis industry, a soil health study, federalizing elections, and tax cuts for millionaires in States like New York and California.

One of the biggest priorities in the wake of the coronavirus is helping Americans keep their jobs or to find new ones. It should be front and center in any relief bill. Yet Democrats' massive bill—over \$3 trillion in the Democrats' bill—manages to mention the word "cannabis" more often than the word "job." Diversity studies for marijuana are more important, evidently, than jobs—at least if you look at the Democrats' bill. That should tell you all you need to know about the seriousness of the Democrats' proposal. I would love for the Democratic leader to come down to the floor and explain how a bill that mentions the word "cannabis" more often than the word "job" is a serious coronavirus bill.

Of course, despite the unseriousness of the Democrats' proposal, Republicans have been willing to compromise on a coronavirus bill from the very beginning. We understand how negotiation works, and we knew that we would have to give some ground and that Democrats would have to give some ground. We were and are willing to do just that. But from the beginning,

Democrats have rejected serious negotiation. Sure, they sat in meetings, and they talked about a bill, but at the end of the day, Democrats refused to compromise. It was their bill or no bill, which means that so far, they have chosen no bill.

The only way to get a bill through the Senate and to the President's desk is to develop a compromise bill. Even if the majority leader puts Democrats' exact bill on the floor today, there is no way—no way—it would make it through the Senate, much less be signed into law by the President. So if the Democrats really want a bill, they are going to have to compromise, and that is something they have continued to refuse to do, which leads to the logical conclusion that Democrats don't want a bill at all.

If Democrats really wanted to get relief to Americans, they would work with Republicans to pass a compromise bill even if it didn't contain all the money Democrats want, because even if it were true that the Republican legislation is inadequate, some money is better than no money. If you can't get someone in need all the money you think they should have, you should get them what money you can.

If Democrats really thought it was of overwhelming importance that we deliver relief to Americans right now, they would be working with Republicans to get as much relief as they could through Congress. But, for Democrats, delivering relief to Americans is not really of overwhelming importance. What is of overwhelming importance to Democrats is keeping coronavirus alive as a political issue, and if that means no bill, well then Democrats are OK with that. They would rather have no bill, zero funding, and a political weapon than to have a bill and allow Republicans to say that we helped Americans. So all indications are that when we have a vote later today, they plan to filibuster this bill.

This is not the first time we have seen this. Think back to the end of June. In the wake of George Floyd's death at the knee of a police officer, Americans of all parties came together to push for police reform. Republicans put a police reform bill on the floor of the Senate for debate and amendment—a substantial bill that included 75 to 80 percent of what both Democrats and Republicans said they wanted, the product of years of research and work by Senator TIM SCOTT, who has personal experience on this issue.

And Democrats? Well, Democrats filibustered. That is right. In the face of a nationwide call for police reform legislation, Democrats refused to even move forward to debate the legislation. Why? Because agreeing to work with Republicans on legislation would have taken away much of Democrats' ability to exploit police reform as a political issue. So Democrats filibustered even though, remarkably, they were offered by Senator SCOTT and other supporters