

REAPPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL M. LYNTON AS A CITIZEN REGENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 87, which has been received from the House.

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

The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (H.J. Res. 87) providing for the reappointment of Michael M. Lynton as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I further ask that the joint resolution be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 87) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

APPOINTMENT OF FRANKLIN D. RAINES AS A CITIZEN REGENT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to immediate consideration of H.J. Res. 88, which has been received from the House.

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

The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (H.J. Res. 88) providing for the appointment of Franklin D. Raines as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I further ask that the joint resolution be considered read three times and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 88) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, September 14; further, that following the

prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Scarsi nomination, under the previous order; finally, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator SANDERS.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, today as a result of the horrific pandemic and economic meltdown, the American working class is hurting in a way that they have not been hurting since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Tens of millions of our fellow citizens have lost their jobs. They have lost their incomes. They have lost their health insurance. They have depleted their life savings. They cannot afford to pay rent. They cannot afford to put food on the table. And they are scared to death that any day now they are going to get a knock on the door from a sheriff, evicting them from their homes and throwing them and their belongings out on the street.

This is the United States of America, the richest country in the history of the world. None of us—no man, woman, or child—should go hungry. None of us should have to live in fear of becoming homeless, and no one should be denied the healthcare that they need—especially during the worst public health crisis in 100 years. But that is precisely what is going on all over our country as we speak this evening.

Just the other day, National Public Radio, NPR, released a survey on the unprecedented economic suffering facing the American people. That should shock everyone in the U.S. Senate and in our Nation. And here is what that survey found: 46 percent of Americans—over 150 million people—are now experiencing serious financial problems.

Forty-one percent of Americans—over 134 million people—have used up all or most of their savings. Their savings accounts are now depleted. Thirty-three percent of American families have had someone in their household who has either lost a job, lost a business, or has been furloughed during the

pandemic. This is an unprecedented moment in American history, and the Senate needs to take unprecedented action to improve the lives of the American people.

Yet in the midst of all of this pain and suffering, what has the Republican-led Senate done over the last 5 months to address the economic concerns of the American people? The answer is nothing except pass a \$740 billion budget for the bloated Pentagon and take an extended vacation. That is not something that anybody in the Senate should be proud of.

The Senate is now back in session. Senate Republicans have introduced a so-called skinny relief bill that is totally inadequate in terms of addressing the crisis we are facing today. The Senate Republican bill provides nothing for rent, nothing for mortgages, nothing for food, nothing for hazard pay, nothing for healthcare, nothing for public transportation, and nothing to prevent the mass layoffs of teachers, nurses, firefighters, and construction workers that will take place in cities and States as cities and States struggle economically.

In other words, the same Republicans who had no problem voting for a trillion-dollar tax break for the top 1 percent large corporations 2 years ago are now telling 40 million Americans who are struggling to pay for housing that we cannot afford to help them pay their rent or mortgage. The same Republicans who just voted to provide \$740 billion for the Pentagon and the military industrial complex to wage endless wars are now telling 30 million workers who lost their jobs that we cannot afford to continue the \$600-a-week supplement they were receiving in unemployment benefits. The same Republicans who slipped \$135 billion tax breaks for multimillionaires and billionaires in the last coronavirus relief package are now telling 29 million Americans who do not have enough food to eat that we cannot afford to help them feed their families.

But if you are an executive in the coal industry, you are in luck. The Republican Senate bill provides your industry with \$161 million in corporate welfare. That is right. The Republican Senate bill provides no money for working families to feed their kids, no money to house the homeless, no money to insure the uninsured—no money for them—but it does provide \$161 million in corporate welfare for the coal industry during a climate emergency. That may make sense for the CEOs in the fossil fuel industry who are destroying the planet with their product, but it makes zero sense to me.

Further, under the Senate Republican bill, if you are a wealthy business owner who forces employees to work in an unsafe and unhealthy workplace, you are rewarded. The Republican bill will provide you with the immunity you need from lawsuits if your workers get sick or die from the coronavirus,