

For 4 months, the Republican majority delayed a COVID-relief package while the Nation suffered, but 1 hour—1 hour—after the news of Justice Ginsburg's passing broke, Leader McCONNELL said "batten down hatches, we're full steam ahead" on confirming another rightwing Justice—a Justice who could undo Ruth Bader Ginsburg's legacy; who could rip away healthcare from millions of American families; who could decide there is no more right to choose for millions of American women—Roe v. Wade hangs in the balance here; who could crush unions for millions of American workers; who could make it harder to vote for millions of African Americans; who could end marriage equality for millions of LGBTQ Americans, like my daughter and her wife, who looked at each other this weekend and wondered, is our marriage on the line?

Average Americans are thinking, what are they going to lose with this new, hard-right, special interest-dominated Supreme Court if—if—our Republican friends have their wish, which we are going to fight every step of the way? The stakes of this election, the stakes of this vacancy concern no less than the future fundamental rights of the American people.

My friends on the other side will tell you that we are being hysterical, that they actually support protections for Americans with preexisting conditions. That is hysterical? Ask the mother whose son or daughter has cancer and can't get insurance and watches their child suffer. That is not being hysterical; that is doing what we are supposed to do, not what the folks on the other side are doing—rushing through a Justice who, in a very strong likelihood if that Justice gets approved, would rip healthcare away from the American people.

America, you have to ask yourselves, if Republicans will completely reverse themselves on a major principle whenever it suits them, what can you trust them on? How can you take their word seriously?

Republicans have praised the legacy of Justice Ginsburg with flowery words about her impact, but in the resolution I offered yesterday, they even didn't want to acknowledge her dying wish that she not be replaced until the next President is installed.

President Trump had the gall, the temerity, the baseness to suggest her dying words were not issued by her. How low can the President go?

Senate Republicans are working with every fiber of their being to confirm a Justice—despite her last wish, in contradiction to her dying, most fervent wish—who will reverse her legacy. This is not speculation. This is not hyperbole. President Trump has said again and again and again that he wants the Supreme Court to "terminate" the healthcare law. He made it clear he has a litmus test: Any Trump nominee must want to strike down Roe v. Wade.

For once, Republicans should be straight with the American people.

They are fighting to reverse Justice Ginsburg's legacy, not honor it. All of their speeches of praise run totally hollow and are belied by their actions.

America, you can't trust them at their word. You can't trust them to protect your healthcare, and you definitely can't trust this Senate Republican majority to protect you.

JOHNSON REPORT

Mr. SCHUMER. While the rest of the country was busy fighting COVID, Senate Republicans have been abusing the power of the Senate to conduct opposition research for President Trump's campaign.

This morning, the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee released his report, which reads as if Putin wrote it, not U.S. Senators. The bogus narrative of this report, peddled by a Russian disinformation campaign, was disproved by every witness who testified. Despite their zeal to smear Vice President Biden and his family, Senate Republicans found no evidence—no evidence—to support the conspiracy theories pushed by Putin's intelligence agencies.

Senators GRASSLEY and JOHNSON should reimburse taxpayers for the money they wasted. This entire disgraceful affair and the Johnson report should be relegated to the dustbin of history.

I yield the floor.

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.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

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 John Charles Hinderaker, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

SUPREME COURT NOMINATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I don't think anyone is surprised that Democrats have not reacted well to the idea that President Trump will nomi-

nate a third Supreme Court Justice. After all, overreacting to Republican nominees is pretty much the Democrats' stock-in-trade. It doesn't matter who the nominee is. To hear the Democrats tell it, any Republican nominee is likely to bring about Armageddon.

The fact that some Republican nominees in past years, and as recently as this past June, have sided with the liberal wing of the Court more often than I would like has not in any way restrained Democrats' hysteria each time a new Republican nominee is introduced.

I thought we had reached a low point 2 years ago with the nomination of Justice Kavanaugh, who suffered months of character assassination at the hands of Democrats, but it turns out that was not the low point because we have reached a new low.

As I said, it is no surprise the Democrats have reacted with hysteria at the prospect of President Trump nominating another Supreme Court Justice. It was disappointing—but hardly surprising—that yesterday the Democratic leader blocked a key Intelligence Committee hearing on election security, a topic he has repeatedly insisted is of overwhelming importance, to protest the thought of the Senate fulfilling its advice and consent role and confirming a principled, conservative woman. Even Speaker PELOSI's overwrought statement that Republicans are "coming after your children," seemed pretty much par for the course.

Democrats have not limited themselves to temper tantrums. No, Democrats have moved on to threats. Dare to confirm the President's duly nominated nominee, Democrats are now saying, and if we win back the majority in November, we will eliminate the legislative filibuster and pack the Supreme Court.

In other words, if Republicans dare to fulfill the Senate's role of advising and consenting to the President's nominee, Democrats will upend our democratic institutions. They will eliminate the legislative filibuster, which is the Senate rule that helps ensure legislation that passes the Senate has to be at least somewhat bipartisan.

And they will pack the Supreme Court. For those who need a brief refresher on the concept of court packing, which had been largely consigned to the dustbin of history nearly a century ago, the theory is as follows: If the Supreme Court is not deciding cases to your liking, add more Justices to the Court until you start getting the decisions that you want. In other words, let Republicans dare to fill the vacant slot on the Supreme Court, and Democrats will keep adding Justices to the Court until they can be assured they will get the outcome they want in every case.

Yesterday, I referred to those Democrats as undemocratic. Why did I say that? They are inconsistent with democratic government. In our system of