

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last night, President Trump delivered one of the most disgraceful performances at a Presidential debate that anyone has ever seen, and I do not mean that from a political perspective; I mean it from a human perspective.

One can become injured to the President's tendency to melt down when confronted with his facts, his brazen lack of self-awareness, his stunning lack of regard for others, but it was maddening to watch the President last night—angry and small—unable to show a scintilla of respect, unable to follow even the most basic rules of human civility or decorum, unwilling to constrain a stream of obvious falsehoods and rightwing bile.

Shakespeare summed up in "Macbeth" Trump's performance last night—"a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

Yes, President Trump's debate performance was, in the words of "Macbeth," a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.

In an hour and a half that felt like a lifetime, the President managed to insult Vice President Biden's deceased son and smear his living one, please a fringe White supremacist group, and cap the night off by, yet again, casting doubt on our own elections—tarnishing our own democracy. Those were just his worst moments. The rest of the debate saw the President heap lies upon lies—lies big and small and every size in between. This President and truth don't intersect at all.

Still, one moment stands out. When asked to condemn White supremacist groups like the Proud Boys—classified as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center and called "hard-core white supremacists" by the Anti-Defamation League—President Trump demurred and then said: "Proud Boys, stand back and stand by."

"Stand back and stand by."

President Obama once wondered rhetorically: "How hard is it to say Nazis are bad?"

Apparently, for President Trump, it is beyond his capacity. In a national debate, he not only refused to condemn a far-right group of violent White supremacists, but he told them to stand by.

As much of the country was in despair last night at the President's juvenile behavior, one group was celebrating—the Proud Boys. They are who were celebrating President Trump's debate performance—White supremacists. Within minutes of the President's comments, the Proud Boys were online, re-

joining at the tacit endorsement of their violent tactics by the President himself. They made logos out of the President's remarks: "Stand back and stand by."

I just want to ask my Republican colleagues: How are you not embarrassed that President Trump represents your party? How can you possibly—possibly—support anyone who behaves this way? Are you watching the same person we are? Are you listening? Are you not embarrassed that millions of Americans watched President Trump and thought: "That is what the Republican Party stands for now"?

He can't express sympathy for the families of 200,000 Americans who have died from COVID; can't go 30 seconds without interrupting someone when he is not speaking; can't refrain from attacking someone's family and pretending not to know a person's deceased son; can't honor the military, defend democracy, respect elections, or tell the truth; can't even make it through a debate without emboldening White supremacists.

How are you, my Senate colleagues, not deeply, utterly, personally embarrassed that Donald Trump is a Republican? How are we not all embarrassed that someone who behaved the way President Trump did last night is our President? I know I am. How about you?

Again, this President is just amazing, and his speech last night—"a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

#### SUPREME COURT NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on SCOTUS, it is for this President that Senate Republicans are now rushing through a Supreme Court nominee nearly days before a national election. A Republican majority that once argued the American people should be given a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court Justice is planning to confirm a nominee in the middle of an election that is already underway. You could not design a scenario that would more fully expose the Republicans' double standard than this one. Of greater concern to the American people is how the rush by Senate Republicans to confirm this nominee will put their healthcare at risk.

Now, yesterday, the Republican leader actually mocked the idea that a far-right Supreme Court majority might strike down the ACA and that Judge Barrett's judicial philosophy might play a part in that. "What a joke," Senator McCONNELL said, that Justice Barrett might pose any risk to Americans' healthcare.

I guess Judge Barrett must have been joking when she publicly criticized Justice Roberts for upholding the Affordable Care Act. It must have been with a sarcastic flick of the pen when she wrote that the Supreme Court would "have had to invalidate" the law if it had read the statute the way she does.

I will tell you what: This is not a joke to the American people. This is not a joke to the 20 million Americans who could lose their health insurance if the ACA is struck down—not a joke to the parents of a child who has cancer and who would have to watch helplessly as their child suffers if the protections for preexisting conditions are struck down; not a joke to the millions of Americans on Medicare, whose drug prices would soar; not a joke to women across the country who could, once again, be charged more for health insurance than men, denied maternity care, and free access to birth control.

The only joke here is the Republican leader's desperate attempt to pretend that his President, his party, and their Supreme Court nominee pose no threat to our Nation's healthcare law—the same Senate leader who did everything he could on the floor of this Senate to repeal the ACA.

President Trump said he will pick Supreme Court nominees who will "terminate the Affordable Care Act." His administration is in court right now, suing to eliminate it. Senate Republicans tried to repeal the law and replace it with nothing. The Republicans' lawsuit against the Affordable Care Act will be heard by the Supreme Court during the week after the election. There is a reason the Republicans are scrambling to fill this seat so quickly, and Judge Barrett, when the ACA was challenged in major litigation, twice before—twice—sided against the law.

So, if the Republican leader believes that the Democrats are raising unfounded fears about healthcare, will he urge the plaintiffs to drop their lawsuit against the ACA? Will Leader McCONNELL urge the Justice Department not to spend taxpayer dollars in trying to eliminate the taxpayers' healthcare?

Normally these questions would be rhetorical, but yesterday I filed a procedural motion that will set up a vote on a bill that would protect the healthcare of hundreds of millions of Americans and prevent efforts by the Department of Justice—Donald Trump's Department of Justice—to advocate that courts strike down the Affordable Care Act. Leader McCONNELL and all of my Republican colleagues will have to vote on that shortly. Let me repeat. Leader McCONNELL and all of my Republican colleagues will have to vote very soon on whether the Senate should consider a bill to protect Americans with preexisting conditions. With that vote, we will see just how much of a joke it is that Senate Republicans and their Supreme Court nominees want to eliminate Americans' healthcare.

I yield the floor.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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