

that the same party so vehemently argued only 4 years ago, 8 days before an election in which the American people will choose exactly whom they want to pick Supreme Court Justices for them.

This idea that because now the Presidency and the Senate are in one party, the rule doesn't apply—they never said that when they blocked Merrick Garland. It is fakery. It is, again, part of the house of lies that is being built by the majority to rush a Supreme Court Justice like this.

It is absurd. It is outrageous. It is a stain on this body and an indelible mark on this Senate majority that will live in history. The Senate Republican majority is conducting the most rushed, most partisan, and least legitimate process in the long history of Supreme Court nominations, and Democrats will not lend an ounce of legitimacy to that process.

Today the members of the minority on the Judiciary Committee have boycotted the markup of Amy Coney Barrett. The rules of the Judiciary Committee require that two members of the minority be present in order to conduct a markup.

True to form, Chairman GRAHAM decided to break the rules to move forward with a vote on Judge Barrett anyway—steamrolling over the rules of the Judiciary Committee, just like Republicans have steamrolled over principle, honesty, fairness, consistency, and decency in their mad rush to confirm a Justice before the election. To steamroll over rules—that is the mark of an autocratic society, not the mark of a democracy, and the Republican majority is going along with that kind of autocracy, the same kind exhibited by President Trump. It is a shame that the principles of the Republican Party are out the window.

Today, the Democratic seats on the dais in that committee room remained empty. In their place were reminders of what is ultimately at stake in this nomination—the fundamental rights of the American people. In their place were photographs of Americans whose lives would be devastated if Judge Barrett delivers the decisive vote to strike down the Affordable Care Act, ripping away healthcare from tens of millions of Americans and eliminating protections for 130 million Americans with preexisting conditions.

You could imagine, alongside their faces, the faces of women who cherish the right to make their own private medical decisions; the faces of LGBTQ Americans who want to marry whom they love and not be fired for who they are; the faces of American workers who are breaking their backs to make ends meet, who need their union to help them get a better wage; the faces of young people who know the planet is in peril in their lifetimes.

I hope that when Republican members of the committee took their seats this morning, they looked at those faces. They ought to think about what this nomination means for them. I

hope they actually took one moment to think about what it says about their sham of a process that Democrats were forced to take the extraordinary step of refusing to participate.

While they may realize it or not—or they may not even care—the Republican majority's monomaniacal drive to confirm this Justice in the most hypocritical of circumstances will forever defile the Senate and curtail the fundamental rights of American people for generations to come.

To every one of my colleagues: History will remember what you have done. Democrats will play no part in it.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION—MOTION TO PROCEED

Madam President, while the Senate majority rushes to confirm the Supreme Court Justice, it is ignoring a number of very important priorities.

Earlier this week, the Republicans had a series of stunt votes on COVID relief on an emaciated bill that left most Americans behind and that was even designated to fail.

Now I want to mention a foreign policy issue the Republican majority is ignoring. We have a resolution by Senators MENENDEZ and MURPHY to invoke statutory authority under the Foreign Assistance Act to require the Secretary of State to assess and report to the Congress on Turkey's potential human rights abuses in Syria.

My colleagues introduced this resolution as a result of Turkey's invasion of northeast Syria and its campaign to ethnically cleanse Kurds from the region, which has resulted in numerous reports of horrific human rights abuses.

The tragic events were the result of the President's decision to abandon our Kurdish partners. The administration didn't lift a finger to uncover the atrocities committed by Turkish proxies.

Even more recently, the Turkish Government, led by President Erdogan, has blood on his hands for his role in the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

President Erdogan is sending individuals responsible for the atrocities in Syria to this region now. He must be exposed—he must be exposed—for these actions. This President has a record of cozying up to dictators, and action must be taken.

So in order to proceed to S. Res. 409, a resolution requesting information on Turkey's human rights practices in Syria, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the motion to proceed.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote occur at 12:59 today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

NOMINATION OF AMY CONEY BARRETT

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, Amy Coney Barrett's first Judiciary Committee hearing back in 2017 has become infamous for the grilling she underwent for her religion.

Then, as now, she was an outstanding choice who received a rating of "well qualified" from the American Bar Association and praise from peers on both sides of the political spectrum.

But despite her superb qualifications, it soon became clear that more than one Democrat thought she couldn't be objective and thus shouldn't be confirmed to the court simply because she was a practicing Catholic who took her faith seriously.

"The dogma lives loudly within you," the Democratic ranking member on the Judiciary Committee said, "and that is of concern."

"Do you consider yourself an orthodox Catholic?" the Democratic whip asked, while the junior Senator from Hawaii suggested that Judge Barrett would use her Catholic faith rather than the law to decide questions.

And while Democrats toned down the anti-religious questioning in Judge Barrett's Supreme Court hearing last week, apparently realizing that openly displaying their suspicion of her religion might offend the tens of millions of American voters who take their faith seriously, their suspicion of her faith has still been on display.

Meanwhile, Democrats' media allies haven't hesitated to trot out articles on Judge Barrett's beliefs, usually with the faint—or in some cases not so faint—suggestion that her adherence to the teachings of the Catholic Church cast doubt on her fitness for the Supreme Court.

Yesterday's AP article on the fact that Judge Barrett served as a trustee at her children's Christian school—not exactly breaking news, as it was something that Judge Barrett had already disclosed—was just one more example of the media's implicit suggestion that the nominee's religion makes her unfit for public office.

As a side note, I am still waiting for bipartisan condemnation of media coverage of Judge Barrett's adopted children. Somehow the New York Times felt that Judge Barrett's brief mentions of her adopted children at her introduction and hearing warranted an article full of unsavory insinuations. I am wondering if Democrats would have found this appropriate coverage of a Democratic nominee's children.

From the attitude displayed by Democrats and the media, you would think that Judge Barrett was a member of some remote and bizarre religious cult instead of one of the largest faith groups in the world.

And Judge Barrett has not been the only judicial nominee subjected to