

the rosier of predictions for the number of vaccinations. President Biden initially promised 100 million vaccinations to be administered in the first 100 days, but the pace of vaccinations was so fast that the President had to double his initial goal to 200 million in the first 100 days, and we have already reached it. It is fair to say that, in the first 100 days, America is winning the all-important “arms race” to get our citizens vaccinated.

On the most important measure of progress—getting the country protected against COVID-19—the new Democratic administration and congressional majorities have been a roaring success. Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, our economy has gotten its own shot in the arm, too. Over the past several weeks, the Biden administration has delivered more than 150 million stimulus checks to the Americans who have needed them the most.

Weekly unemployment claims have fallen to their lowest level during the pandemic. The month of March saw the economy create nearly 900,000 jobs. Retail sales are surging. Consumer confidence has rebounded. Economic forecasters are now projecting that our economy could grow as fast as 7 percent this year. In the wake of the American Rescue Plan, the economic boost was so significant that forecasters had to increase their projections for global growth as well.

Our former President blithely predicted that electing Joe Biden would crash the stock market. It turns out President Biden’s first 100 days have delivered the best stock market results in 75 years, since President Eisenhower.

At the same time, the Democratic majority in Congress has made sure that our Nation’s economic recovery will be felt by everyone. The American Rescue Plan is expected to boost incomes of the lowest 20 percent by 20 percent. Guess what those in the top 1 percent will receive? It will be so contrary to what the Republicans did when they had power. They will get zero percent instead of the overwhelming percentage in their bill, their tax cuts. Just one policy in the American Rescue Plan—the historic expansion of the child tax credit—is expected to cut child poverty in half.

The story of the first 100 days is about shots going into arms, checks going into pockets, and life finally returning to normal. The story of the first 100 days is about the country turning a corner and seeing some hope on the horizon. More broadly, the first 100 days of this administration and this Congress have proven two things: one, that the government can work for the American people; and, two, that the Senate can legislate.

The last few decades have brought faith in our government to alltime lows. You don’t have to look very far in the past to find surveys about how Congress has been less popular than traffic jams, root canals, and Genghis

Khan. Faith in our democracy and trust in our elections were brought to new lows by the persistent and mendacious lies by the former President, culminating in an armed insurrection here in the Capitol.

Part of our mission here in Congress, in working with the Biden administration, is to restore Americans’ faith in our institutions and Americans’ faith in our government. Through the American Rescue Plan and the successful roll-out of the vaccine, we are slowly proving to the American people that government can work for them.

So we have a long way to go, but in the first hundred days, this new Congress has made an important downpayment. Congressional approval is now the highest it has been since June of 2009.

Here in the Senate, the first hundred days have shown that this Chamber can legislate. Bipartisan work on the anti-Asian hates crime bill, the water bill this week, and hopefully an American competitiveness bill in the coming weeks proves that there are still many issues that unite Republicans and Democrats. Of course, our two parties are not always going to agree. In those instances, the Senate must still make progress on the challenges of our time. We did that through the American Rescue Plan.

So in the first hundred days, the Senate has accomplished a lot more than most observers might have predicted. The next hundred days will bring more of the same.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 61.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Samantha Power, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 61, Samantha Power, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Charles E. Schumer, Mazie Hirono, Ron Wyden, Jack Reed, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patrick J. Leahy, Michael F. Bennet, Tim Kaine, Christopher Murphy, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Cory A. Booker, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Chris Van Hollen, Sherrod Brown, Edward J. Markey, Bernard Sanders.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, April 26, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor and once again thank my friend from Vermont.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

#### JOHN KERRY

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I rise today on the Senate floor to call for the resignation of John Kerry as a member of the Biden administration’s National Security Council.

Now, I don’t do this lightly. As a matter of fact, in my entire time in the Senate, I have never called for anyone’s resignation—Obama-Biden administration, Trump administration, Biden administration now. I have been tempted, particularly when some in government have tried to hurt my State. A lot of that is going on right now with the Biden administration. But his record—John Kerry’s record—of undermining working families and working against American national security interests is too much to bear. He needs to go.

Today, I have heard such disturbing news that, if true, it should absolutely result in the call of John Kerry either being fired or resigning. Enough is enough. Why am I saying this? First, he is killing jobs, arrogantly killing American jobs. That is a fact. He is putting hard-working Americans, particularly in the energy sector—the great men and women who make our country strong by developing oil and gas resources; a lot of my constituents—in the name of climate goals, he is putting them out of work. He is going to Wall Street, saying: Don’t finance these projects anymore. That is what reporters are saying.

On these issues, I completely and adamantly disagree with the arrogant way—frankly, callous way—he says: Hey, people need to move on to better jobs. But for this issue alone, I wouldn’t be calling for his resignation. This is a major difference in the Biden administration’s policies and priorities with regard to the American people. I think it is going to really come back and hit this administration hard because the vast majority of Americans don’t agree with putting people out of work, energy workers out of work during a recession and pandemic, but that