

up 7 percent; general merchandise up 7.1 percent. We are clearly seeing inflation.

Senate Democrats just objected to transparency. That means they are against getting the facts, against ensuring accountability, and against getting the American people the information they need to make smart decisions as prices keep rising.

Eighty-seven percent of Americans are worried about the rising costs of goods. Apparently, so is the White House. So don't the American people deserve the same information about what is happening with the economy?

Floridians deserve to know the truth about inflation and so do the people of Ohio. Why does my colleague want to keep them in the dark?

This administration is telling the American people one thing but saying something else behind closed doors. That is wrong.

The American people deserve the truth. Inflation is real. It is happening. It is hurting American families. It is time President Biden does something about it, and I am extremely disappointed my colleague is actually today helping the President mislead the American people.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 10 minutes.

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

#### WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, today we mark Workers Memorial Day, when we honor and remember workers who have laid down their lives on the job.

I have worn on my lapel since I was in the House, a pin depicting a canary in a bird cage given to me at a Workers Memorial Day rally in Lorain, OH, in the late 1990s.

This pin depicts a canary going down in the mine. It suggests the mine worker taking a canary down in the mines. If the canary died from lack of oxygen or from toxic gas, the mine worker got out of the mines. He had no union strong enough to protect him and no government that cared enough to protect him in those days.

To me, this pin represents the role of government to support the middle class and those who aspire to the middle class. It represents the progress we have made and the society we continue to fight for every day here.

We know the story. Coal miners took the canary down into the mines. Throughout the 20th century, we have worked to change that. We passed workers safety laws and overtime pay. We banned child labor. We passed clean air and safe drinking water laws. We enacted Social Security and Medicare and workers' rights and women's rights and civil rights.

But despite that progress over the last year, too many workers have felt a

whole lot like those miners. They have felt like they are on their own.

A moment ago, I mentioned a grocery store worker in Cincinnati, who said: "They tell me I am essential, but I feel expendable."

That grocery store worker and thousands of others have been on the frontlines of this pandemic, risking their lives so Americans could keep food on their table and get their packages delivered. They were changing linens in hospitals and driving buses and stocking shelves in supermarkets.

Then workers go home at night and are anxious that they might spread the virus and infect their family.

We know that hundreds of thousands of workers have been exposed to the virus on the job. Thousands have died. It is hard to get an exact count of how many because the previous administration didn't bother to keep track.

We know that food and commercial workers reported last summer that more than 16,000 grocery store workers have been exposed, more than 100 have died. We know those numbers keep going up.

The National Nurses United has recorded at least 3,200 healthcare workers have died. In meatpacking plants, the toll has been horrific.

Last summer, 16,000 workers had been infected; the vast majority of them Black and Brown workers. More than 230 died.

And yet all of last year, the Trump administration and too many large corporations failed to protect their workers. The corporate lawyers that ran the Labor Department from the top down refused to issue workplace safety requirements.

Corporations ran a lot of feel-good TV ads saying thank you to essential workers, claiming these workers are the heart of their companies, but workers didn't ask for a PR campaign. They needed protections on the job.

This Workers Memorial Day, today—we celebrate it every year—we remember the American workers who have lost their lives on the job from this virus, sometimes from gun violence, sometimes from workplace accidents.

We honor them best by fighting to protect these workers and their fellow workers to make their hard work pay off.

Yesterday, in the Banking and Housing Committee, we held the committee's first-ever listening session. It was purely a listening session. No Senators got to ask questions. We just came to listen, with workers from Ohio and around the country, to hear how the financial system affects their jobs and their lives.

They shared powerful stories about their work, about how companies and economic policies prevent their hard work from paying off.

We heard from a distribution worker in Ashtabula County, OH. He told us:

We rarely go a few weeks without an injury, largely because of the insane pace we work at. We have suggested that slowing the

pace even just a little would improve safety and could save money, to which we were told, "Injuries don't cost the company much money."

We heard from a Wells Fargo call center worker who talked about how the bank misclassified her to avoid paying overtime. They put her on salary. They said she was management. They worked her more than 40 hours. They never paid her an overtime dollar.

We heard from a full-time gig worker who works for multiple corporations like Uber and Instacart. He works full time. He has zero benefits because these companies claim he is an independent contractor.

We heard from a Michigan worker who lost her job when a private equity firm bought out her company. They laid off 3,100 workers in the Detroit area, and they pocketed the money.

We heard from a worker in West Virginia who talked about working her whole life and never seeing that hard work pay off. She said the term "working poor" should not be two words that go together.

If you work hard, you should be able to get ahead in this country. If you love this country, you fight for the people who make it work.

If even the global pandemic, where America's workers have been on the frontlines—if even that won't get corporations to rethink their business model that treats workers as expendable, it is time to stop letting them run the economy. That is what the new Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee is all about. Wall Street had its chance. They failed. If corporate America won't deliver for its workers, then we have to create a better system centered on the dignity of work. That means safe workplaces.

The Biden administration is taking steps toward finally issuing an OSHA emergency temporary standard. We went a whole year in the pandemic where the President of the United States simply refused and the corporate lawyer who ran the Department of Labor simply refused to issue any standards on workplace safety. Think about that. Now it means laws and policies will reward work, like the earned income tax credit and the child tax credit—the junior Senator from New Hampshire is here and has been supportive of that; a strong overtime rule; ending misclassification that robs workers of their wages and their rights. It means a strong labor movement. Unions give people power on the job. People ought to have the option, if they choose, of joining a union, allowing them to join together to make their workplace safer.

It is workers who make our economy successful. It is workers who allow corporations and Wall Street investors to rake in record profits. It is time for that hard work to pay off for all workers, no matter if you punch a clock or work for salary or work for tips or take care of your parents or take care of

your children. Work should be rewarded in this country. When you love this country, you fight for the people who make it work on Workers Memorial Day and the other 364 days of the year.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

#### NOMINATION OF SAMANTHA POWER

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, I rise to voice my strong support for the confirmation of Ambassador Samantha Power to be the next Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development. I am confident that she brings the talent, skill, and experience required of this office and is the right person to lead this pivotal agency at a critical point in America's return to global leadership.

Ambassador Power has worn many different hats throughout her sterling career—advocate, academic, advisor, and diplomat. But that trajectory has been propelled in large part by her time as a journalist, where she saw the day-to-day experiences of those living in places struggling against the tides of war, famine, genocide, and disease. She witnessed, first-hand, the tireless efforts of USAID Foreign Service officers working in partnership with local stakeholders to uplift and empower communities around the world. And those early experiences seeing the work of USAID and the challenges the agency faces continue to guide her path.

Like Ambassador Power, I spent the early part of my career seeing global conflict up close. As a staffer working on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in 1988, I travelled to Iraq after Saddam Hussein used poison gas against the Kurdish people. It's a trip that Ambassador Power recounts in her first book, *A Problem from Hell*, which won her the Pulitzer Prize in 2003—and it's a trip that animates so much of the work I do in the United States Senate.

The world witnessed the horrific chemical weapons attacks on the Kurdish people in Halabja in March 1988 and later that year, together with my colleague, Peter Galbraith, I interviewed Kurdish survivors of other chemical attacks that followed. It was a heart-rending journey that stays with me to this day. But that experience, like Ambassador Power's experiences in Bosnia, East Timor, Darfur, West Africa, and elsewhere, instilled in me a sense of moral urgency that hasn't tired in the three decades since—and I know hasn't tired in Ambassador Power either.

I'm confident that she'll employ that sense of urgency in her new role as the Administrator of USAID, which bolsters peace and prosperity both in developing nations and here at home. The biggest threats that we face are interconnected and global—from climate change to cybersecurity to pandemics. As we've seen throughout the past year, viruses know no borders, and our ability to defeat COVID-19 depends

upon our willingness to partner with other nations to stop the spread and mount a successful recovery. And as we reassert American values at the core of our foreign policy, we will also need to combat the Chinese government's efforts to export its model of authoritarianism to governments in developing countries. USAID will be at forefront of these missions and others. In Ambassador Power's own words, "Development is critical to America's ability to tackle the toughest problems of our time—economic, humanitarian, and geopolitical."

Madam President, there is no doubt in my mind that Ambassador Samantha Power will serve our country well as the next Administrator of USAID. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of her confirmation.

#### VOTE ON THE POWER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Power nomination?

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Are there any Senators in the Chamber wishing to vote or change his or her vote?

The result was announced—yeas 68, nays 26, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 174 Ex.]

#### YEAS—68

|              |              |            |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin      | Heinrich     | Portman    |
| Bennet       | Hickenlooper | Reed       |
| Blumenthal   | Hirono       | Risch      |
| Blunt        | Inhofe       | Romney     |
| Booker       | Johnson      | Rosen      |
| Brown        | Kaine        | Sanders    |
| Burr         | Kelly        | Sasse      |
| Capito       | King         | Schatz     |
| Cardin       | Klobuchar    | Schumer    |
| Carper       | Leahy        | Shaheen    |
| Casey        | Lujan        | Sinema     |
| Collins      | Manchin      | Smith      |
| Coons        | Markey       | Stabenow   |
| Cornyn       | McConnell    | Tester     |
| Cortez Masto | Menendez     | Van Hollen |
| Crapo        | Merkley      | Warner     |
| Duckworth    | Moran        | Warnock    |
| Durbin       | Murkowski    | Warren     |
| Feinstein    | Murphy       | Whitehouse |
| Fischer      | Murray       | Wicker     |
| Gillibrand   | Ossoff       | Wyden      |
| Graham       | Padilla      | Young      |
| Hassan       | Peters       |            |

#### NAYS—26

|           |         |         |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| Barrasso  | Boozman | Cassidy |
| Blackburn | Braun   | Cotton  |

|          |            |            |
|----------|------------|------------|
| Cruz     | Hyde-Smith | Scott (FL) |
| Daines   | Kennedy    | Scott (SC) |
| Ernst    | Lankford   | Sullivan   |
| Grassley | Lee        | Thune      |
| Hagerty  | Lummis     | Tillis     |
| Hawley   | Marshall   | Tuberville |
| Hoeven   | Rubio      |            |

#### NOT VOTING—6

|          |        |        |
|----------|--------|--------|
| Cantwell | Paul   | Shelby |
| Cramer   | Rounds | Toomey |

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY RELATING TO "OIL AND NATURAL GAS SECTOR: EMISSION STANDARDS FOR NEW, RECONSTRUCTED, AND MODIFIED SOURCES REVIEW"—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume legislative session.

The clerk will read the title of the joint resolution for the third time.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

#### S.J. RES. 14

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, Leader CHUCK SCHUMER, Chairman TOM CARPER of the Committee on Environment and Public Works, Senator ANGUS KING, Senator EDWARD MARKEY and I are leading supporters and sponsors of S.J. Res. 14, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to Oil and Natural Gas Sector: Emission Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources Review, 85 Fed. Reg. 57,018, Sept. 14, 2020, also known as methane rescission rule. We submit these comments to provide the Senate with additional information regarding the intent in adopting this resolution.

The atmospheric buildup of greenhouse gases, such as methane, is changing the climate at a pace and in a way that endangers human health, society, our economy, and the natural environment. Specific public health impacts of anthropogenic climate change include respiratory harms associated with smoke inhalation from unprecedented climate-driven forest fires, heat stroke, and other health effects of increasingly frequent heat waves, and more widespread vector borne diseases. Other public welfare impacts include displacing U.S. communities by retreating snow and ice and rising sea levels, droughts that impact agricultural production and farming communities, and