

whole. In particular, the President's focus on jobs, middle-class incomes, and helping families and workers succeed in a 21st-century economy was very much welcomed.

America is breathing a sigh of relief to see Joe Biden in that chair and not the previous President, who just all too often, even in those speeches where he was supposed to rise to the occasion, appealed to the worst instincts of people.

The President's plan—President Biden's plan—will help restore that once innate American optimism that has really been shaken for the last 4 years. Now the Congress must act. And, as majority leader, I intend for the Senate to take up legislation to make President Biden's vision a reality.

Truthfully, a lot of what President Biden proposed last night should be bipartisan. Just because a Democratic President proposed a jobs and infrastructure plan doesn't mean jobs and infrastructure are Democratic issues. Just because a Democratic President proposed a comprehensive plan to address childcare and education and workforce training doesn't mean those are just Democratic issues. My Republican colleagues, in one way or another, have joined Democrats on legislation in those subject areas for years.

President Biden spoke at length about the need to outcompete China. That is something our two parties have long agreed on and a topic the Senate will address in the next work period.

Even on the very difficult subjects like police reform, gun safety, immigration, bipartisan compromise—strong bipartisan compromise, strong legislation coming out of bipartisan compromise—is never out of reach.

Senator MURPHY continues to discuss bipartisan safety measures with Senator CORNYN and others. Senators BOOKER and DURBIN continue to discuss bipartisan policing reform with Senator SCOTT, KAREN BASS, Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, and many others.

Just this morning, I met with George Floyd's brother, Eric Garner's mother, and Mr. Ben Crump, the lawyer for the family of George Floyd, and I told them that we are committed to getting meaningful, strong reform done—hopefully, in a bipartisan way, if we can.

Here on the Senate floor, we are proving that our two parties can work together on legislation, including on some of the issues that President Biden mentioned. Today's vote offers a great example. This afternoon, the Senate is going to vote on a bipartisan water infrastructure bill. We have agreed with the Republican minority to consider several amendments first, including three Republican amendments. I promised my caucus and the country that we would try to do things in a more open way, where amendments would be debated on the floor. We did that last week on the anti-Asian hate crimes legislation. We are doing it today on the water bill, and we hope to do it on

the comprehensive America COMPETES Act when we come back next week.

So the bottom line is very simple: We are moving forward wherever we can in a bipartisan way.

I expect the Senate will pass the water infrastructure bill with a resounding bipartisan vote after the amendments are debated. So let it be a signal to our Republican colleagues that Senate Democrats want to work together on infrastructure when and where we can.

Certainly, the water bill is not the only example of bipartisan legislation this Congress. As I mentioned, a few weeks ago, nearly the entire Senate stood together to pass legislation to combat the recent surge in hate crimes, particularly against Americans of Asian descent, 94 to 1—94 to 1.

And just yesterday, the Senate passed, with bipartisan support, a measure to reinstate critical rules to reduce the emissions of methane into our atmosphere. It was the first significant action the Senate has taken to combat climate change in at least a decade, probably much more.

Even though our two parties have been divided in the past on the subject of climate change, we can no longer afford to have those differences foil our progress. The methane CRA must be the first—the first of many steps we take to tackle climate change.

So these past few months have provided a great example of what the Senate can do. The American people deserve a Congress that works and produces the kinds of change that Americans are demanding. President Biden pointed the way. He pointed the way forward on a number of issues last night. Now it is up to us, here in the Senate and in the Congress, to make progress, the progress for the American people, a reality.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 69.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Andrea Joan Palm, of Wisconsin, to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services.

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 senior assistant legislative 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 debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 69, Andrea Joan Palm, of Wisconsin, to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Michael F. Bennet, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Patrick J. Leahy, Martin Heinrich, Catherine Cortez Masto, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Christopher Murphy, Christopher A. Coons, Tammy Baldwin, Tammy Duckworth, Chris Van Hollen, Tim Kaine, Thomas R. Carper, Amy Klobuchar, Margaret Wood Hassan.

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. 65.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Cynthia Minette Marten, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Education.

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 senior assistant legislative 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 debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 65, Cynthia Minette Marten, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Education.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Michael F. Bennet, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Patrick J. Leahy, Martin Heinrich, Catherine Cortez Masto, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Christopher Murphy, Christopher A. Coons, Tammy Baldwin, Tammy Duckworth, Chris Van Hollen, Tim Kaine, Thomas R. Carper, Amy Klobuchar, Margaret Wood Hassan.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, April 29, be waived.

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

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.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, last night, President Biden delivered his first address to a joint session of Congress, and today marks his 100th day in office.

President Biden is a likeable person. Many of us remember serving with him in this Chamber. But while the tone of his remarks were understated, the content was anything but. He talked at length about competing with China without mentioning that he wants to cut U.S. defense spending after inflation. Exactly what we cannot do if we want to keep pace.

He talked about immigration without taking any responsibility for the border crisis that has his administration packing unaccompanied children into facilities and releasing arrivals into our country.

And the President talked about unity and togetherness while reading off a multitrillion-dollar shopping list that was neither designed nor intended to earn bipartisan buy-in, a blueprint for giving Washington even more money and even more power to micromanage American families and build the country liberal elites want instead of the future Americans want.

Think back to the start of this administration. Remember its day one priorities: axing a pipeline project that would have supported thousands of jobs; freezing the exploration behind America's energy independence; and resigning the climate agreement that has gotten less emissions reduction out of China, which is inside the deal, than the United States achieved on our own, outside the deal.

The approach has remained equally radical since. Even after the CDC's own experts showed months ago that schools are safe, the administration's partisan COVID bill threw money at districts without requiring prompt reopenings.

As a humanitarian crisis mounts at the southern border, the President's team has offered mixed messaging and ineffectiveness.

While Iran keeps ramping up nuclear rhetoric and financing terror across the Middle East, this White House keeps downplaying the Iranian terror. And they appear eager to squander sanctions leverage just to climb back into a failed deal from back in the Obama era.

And again, as Russia and China fast-track military modernization, President Biden turned in a defense spending proposal that would put U.S. forces behind the curve.

That was the backdrop for last night's speech. But instead of practical plans to fulfill these basic responsibilities, America heard a lengthy liberal daydream. We heard about the so-called jobs plan packed with punitive tax hikes at exactly the time our Nation needs a recovery. Ivy League experts say that it would actually leave American workers with lower wages at the end of the day.

We heard about the so-called family plan, another gigantic tax-and-spend colossus. Instead of empowering all kinds of families with flexibility, this one would just subsidize specific paths that Democrats deem best so Washington can call the shots from early childhood through college graduation.

But wait. There was more. There was hostility toward the Second Amendment rights of American citizens. There was support for Democrats' sweeping election takeover bill that would neuter voter ID in all 50 States—oh—and, by the way, make the Federal Election Commission a partisan body—oh—and legalize ballot harvesting, where paid political operatives can show up carrying stacks, stacks of other people's ballots.

Here is the bottom line. Recall that more than a year ago, at the outset of the pandemic, a top House Democrat said this crisis provided the left “a tremendous opportunity to restructure things to fit our vision.” Well, last night, President Biden said much the same: that his administration intends to turn “crisis into opportunity.”

The far left certainly gets the message. Some of the most liberal Members of Congress have gone out of their way to say they are surprised and delighted—delighted—by the President's willingness to do things their way.

Even a neutral wire report explained yesterday that the Biden agenda seeks to “fundamentally transform and expand government's role in the lives of everyday Americans.”

Let me say that again. A neutral wire report explained yesterday that the Biden agenda seeks to “fundamentally transform and expand government's role in the lives of everyday Americans.”

It is an attempt to continue dragging a divided country farther and faster to the left. This administration wants to jack up taxes in order to nudge families toward the kinds of jobs Democrats want them to have, in the kinds of industries Democrats want to exist, with the kinds of cars Democrats want them to drive, using the kinds of childcare arrangements that Democrats want them to pursue. These plans aren't about creating options and flexibility for Americans; they are about imposing a vision.

Instead of encouraging work and rewarding work and helping connect more Americans with opportunities to work and build their lives, this administration is working overtime to break the link—the link—between work and income. They want to break the link between work and income.

Outside observers across the political spectrum agree these Democrats are unlearning the commonsense, pro-work lessons of bipartisan welfare reform from back in the nineties.

This isn't what the American people voted for. This country just elected a 50-50 Senate, a very closely divided House, and a President who talked a big game about cutting deals, bringing people together, and building bridges. But even on subjects as historically bipartisan as pandemic relief, voting rights, and infrastructure, our Democratic friends have become addicted to divide-and-conquer.

As our distinguished colleague Senator TIM SCOTT put it last night:

They won't even build bridges . . . to build bridges.

It doesn't have to be this way. Republicans support actually competing with China. Republicans support actually helping working families. Republicans support actual infrastructure. Ranking Member CAPITO and a number of our leading Republican colleagues have rolled out a multi-hundred-billion-dollar targeted infrastructure proposal. Today, in fact, the Senate is set to pass bipartisan legislation to help States and localities to provide clean and safe drinking water.

Our President will not secure a lasting legacy through go-it-alone radicalism. He won't get much done that way. It won't be good for the country. And whatever the Democrats do get done through partisan brute force will be fragile. The American people need us to find common ground and to move this country forward, and they would like for us to do it together.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY'S WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2020 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 189, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 189) congratulating the University of Kentucky's Women's Volleyball Team for winning the 2020 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Women's Volleyball Championship.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 189) was agreed to.