

DONALD TRUMP

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last night the Republican nominee for President failed to give any assurance as any kind or a coherent explanation as to why he refuses to release his tax returns—because there is no coherent reason. It is hard to give one when there isn't one.

He said he couldn't release his tax information because the Internal Revenue Service hasn't certified it. Everyone debunks that—everyone, except Donald Trump. But even as Trump tried to say nothing about his tax returns, he revealed at least one shocking truth: Donald Trump thinks that paying taxes is a fool's errand. People shouldn't pay taxes. He said—and it was reported at least five times in three decades—that he paid nothing in Federal income taxes, and Secretary Clinton alluded to that fact in last night's debate. Donald Trump's response was this: "That makes me smart." So what does that make the rest of us—suckers, unintelligent, dumb? He is smart; so does that make us dumb because we pay our taxes? He knows that refusing to pay taxes makes him, as we have come to learn, a scam artist. He is good at that. Every day that he refuses to release his tax returns is another slap in the face to the American people. People running for office for scores of decades have released their income taxes. That may be a little bit of an exaggeration, but let's say that for the last 70 years, they have released their income tax returns. So why won't he release his? Why doesn't he do this? Because the tax returns would show that he is not the rich guy he thinks he is. Tax returns would show he is a spoiled, rich brat who inherited his daddy's money and hasn't done so well with it. After \$14 million, he hasn't done that well with how much his dad gave him. Trump's tax returns would show he isn't as generous as he claims to be and that he uses charities as his personal slush fund. Did you see this morning's news? He had an appearance on a TV show, and they owed him money. They paid that into his charity so he can then say that he gave this away. Trump's tax returns would show that, in spite of getting over \$1 billion of assistance from New York, in New York City alone Donald Trump is a failed businessman who is buried under a mountain of debt. They would show that he refuses to pay his Federal income taxes.

So I would hope that Donald Trump would release those tax returns the way Hillary Clinton has released 40 years of hers and her husband's.

Mr. President, I ask the Chair to announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2017

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 5325, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5325) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell (for Cochran) amendment No. 5082, in the nature of a substitute.

McConnell amendment No. 5083 (to amendment No. 5082), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 5084 (to amendment No. 5083), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell amendment No. 5085 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 5082), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 5086 (to amendment No. 5085), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, with instructions, McConnell amendment No. 5087, to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 5088 (to (the instructions) amendment No. 5087), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell amendment No. 5089 (to amendment No. 5088), of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assisting majority leader.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I came to the floor to talk about the pending business, but I have to just comment based on what the Democratic leader has said. Apparently, he has so little confidence in his party's nominee for President that he insists on coming to the floor every day that we are in session, trying to assist her by making arguments either she cannot make or that she has not made. We do have pending business that is very important and which I know he would agree is important, and that is to keep the government running past the end of this fiscal year, which ends on Friday.

That actually is the subject that I came here to talk about. We are continuing to work on a continuing resolution to fund the government through the end of the fiscal year. The fact of the matter is that we would not find ourselves in this distasteful position were it not for the filibusters of our Democratic colleagues who try to use the leverage and have effectively used the leverage to shut down the normal functioning of the appropriations process in order to gain some leverage to spend more money, notwithstanding the fact that we are \$19 trillion in debt. They simply shifted from one excuse to another in order to refuse to do their job, which is actually to work in a bipartisan way through the appropriations process to fund the functioning of the government at agreed-to spending levels.

So we are now staring at a Friday deadline to keep the government open. Of course, this was their design all along—to drag their feet, delay, and turn from one excuse to another in order to keep from actually working in

a bipartisan way to appropriate the money to fund the government so the government would continue to function. We could have finished this job a long time ago, but our Democratic colleagues simply made it clear that they wouldn't lose any sleep even as we get closer and closer to the funding deadline.

This is actually the narrative they hoped for all along. They want to talk about shutdowns or potential shutdowns that they, in fact, could cause, not because of anything that we have done on this side of the aisle.

The Appropriations Committee, chaired by Senator COCHRAN, and the Appropriations subcommittees have voted out on a bipartisan basis all 12 appropriations bills, and they have done their work. Many of them have passed unanimously. Most of them have passed overwhelmingly with bipartisan support, which is very encouraging. So our Democratic colleagues have had a lot of participation and a lot of influence, as I know they would want, in the priorities of the Federal Government as reflected in the appropriations bill. Of course, that wasn't good enough, and that didn't meet their underlying need, which is to try to gain any advantage they possibly can when it comes to spending levels or in the upcoming November 8 election, which very much appears to be on the Democratic leader's mind as he continues to come to the floor and talk about the Presidential race rather than the pending business.

Of course, now we know that we are running out of time. So the majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, has now proposed to call their bluff. They said they wanted a clean continuing resolution. As a matter of fact, the Democratic leader said last week that if a clean continuing resolution were brought to a vote, we could "leave in 10 minutes." That is what the Democratic leader said last week. But as of yesterday, we know he changed his tune. He said a clean CR wasn't near enough. He said: "We want more."

We will soon have a chance to vote on that clean continuing resolution after lunch. This is the continuing resolution that the Democratic leader said we could pass and leave in 10 minutes. This continuing resolution funds the government at levels this Chamber has already agreed to. There are no riders or anything that the Democrats can claim as controversial. It is a simple continuation of funding at current levels under the same terms that the President has already signed into law last December. It also includes resources for bipartisan priorities like veterans programs, flood control, fighting the opioid epidemic that is devastating communities across our country, and dealing with prevention of the Zika virus—something the Democrats said they wanted money for since last May. Well, this is it. This is the \$1.1 billion agreed to on a bipartisan basis. But this is when they shift their argument to something else.