

## JANUARY 6 COMMISSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have a brief statement on the vote on the January 6 Commission.

My colleagues, this was a case of good news and bad news about the Republican Party in the Senate.

The good news: Republicans worked with Democrats on comprehensive legislation to strengthen our commitment to scientific research, which will pass the Senate when the Senate resumes session.

The bad news: The Republican minority just mounted a partisan filibuster against an independent Commission to report on January 6. Both efforts should have moved forward solidly in a bipartisan way, but out of fear or fealty to Donald Trump, the Republican minority just prevented the American people from getting the full truth about January 6. The Republican minority just prevented the Senate from even debating the bill—no opportunity for amendments, no opportunity for debate.

There was an attempt by the Republican minority to shunt this vote into the dark of night, but because of today's Senate time agreement, it was done in broad daylight. The American people will see how each Republican Senator voted.

This should have been simple. The Commission was bipartisan, independent, straight down the middle. House Democrats accepted every change that House leadership requested. Speaker PELOSI and I supported and still do support the changes Senator COLLINS proposed, and we told that to other Senators.

Senate Republicans, for months, publicly supported the idea of a Commission, but now, all of a sudden, the Senate minority and the Senate minority leader waged a partisan filibuster against the bill.

This vote has made it official: Donald Trump's Big Lie has now fully enveloped the Republican Party. Trump's Big Lie is now the defining principle of what was once the party of Lincoln.

House Republicans canned Congresswoman CHENEY for the crime of telling the truth that Joe Biden is President. Republican State legislatures seizing on the Big Lie are conducting the greatest assault on voting rights since the beginning of Jim Crow. Republicans in both Chambers are trying to rewrite history and claim that January 6 was just a peaceful protest that got a little out of hand. And now this—a partisan blockade of a simple, independent, bipartisan Commission.

I have heard all the excuses why Republicans are opposing this bill: It is too early. It goes on too long. It is not needed. Almost all of these excuses are meritless and were invented in the past 2 weeks.

We all know what is going on here. Senate Republicans chose to defend the Big Lie because they believe anything that might upset Donald Trump could hurt them politically.

We all lived through the horrors of January 6. I was no farther than 30 feet from those White Supremacist hooligans. Do my Republican colleagues remember that day? Do my Republican colleagues remember the savage mob calling for the execution of Mike Pence, the makeshift gallows outside the Capitol, men with bulletproof vests and zip ties breaking into the Senate Gallery and rifling through your desks, and police officers crushed between doorways? Shame on the Republican Party for trying to sweep the horrors of that day under the rug because they are afraid of Donald Trump.

Our democracy has long endured because leaders of good faith, even if they disagreed, even at political costs, shared a fidelity to the truth. That is not so today.

I hope this is not the beginning of an effort by Senate Republicans to prevent this Chamber from debating reasonable, commonsense legislation. We will soon see.

After the State work period, I will bring forward legislation that would help provide equal pay for women. Will our Republican colleagues let the Senate debate the bill, or will they engage in another partisan filibuster of urgent legislation? We will soon see.

Madam President, I have a lot of pages here, a lot of business to conduct.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to consider the following nominations: Calendar No. 132 and all nominations on the Secretary's Desk in the Foreign Service; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

## IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Michael J. McCord, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), vice David L. Norquist, resigned.

## NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

## IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

PN355 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (5) beginning Ali Abdi, and ending Mary Ellen Smith, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 13, 2021.

PN356 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (622) beginning Abdulrazak Mahamudu Abass, and ending Ashley B. Zung, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 13, 2021.

PN358—1 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (3) beginning Jonathan Raphael Cohen, and

ending Alaina Teplitz, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 13, 2021.

PN476 FOREIGN SERVICE nominations (209) beginning Alexander S. Allen, and ending Iva Ziza, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 27, 2021.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 133; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the Record; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ronald S. Moultrie, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is, Shall the Senate advise and consent to the Moultrie nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

## TRAINING IN HIGH-DEMAND ROLES TO IMPROVE VETERAN EMPLOYMENT ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2523 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2523) to amend the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to improve the COVID-19 Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance program, to make certain technical corrections to the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 2523) was passed.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

#### RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MCCLELLAN-KERR ARKANSAS RIVER NAVIGATION SYSTEM

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 195.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 195) recognizing the 50th anniversary of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on adoption of the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 195) was agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Inhofe amendment to the preamble be agreed to, the preamble as amended be agreed to, and that 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 amendment (No. 2108) to the preamble was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

In the preamble, strike the 18th whereas clause and insert "Whereas modernization of the MKARNS will empower future economic development, promote freight mobility, and expand agricultural exports and the movement of iron and steel products, while relieving congestion on our roads and bridges;"

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 195), with its preamble, as amended, was agreed to as follows

#### S. RES. 195

Whereas June 5, 2021, marks the 50th anniversary of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System (referred to in this preamble as "MKARNS");

Whereas, in the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1946 (Public Law 79-525), Congress authorized the Army Corps of Engineers (commonly referred to as the "Corps") to undertake comprehensive improvements on the Arkansas and Verdigris Rivers, which served as the foundation of the MKARNS;

Whereas the MKARNS opened for full use in December 1970, which, after over 20 years and \$1,200,000,000, was the largest civil works project undertaken by the Corps at the time;

Whereas President Richard M. Nixon officially dedicated the MKARNS on June 5, 1971, at a ceremony at the Tulsa Port of Catoosa, Oklahoma;

Whereas the MKARNS is named for United States Senator John L. McClellan of Arkansas and former Oklahoma Governor and United States Senator Robert S. Kerr of Oklahoma, who advocated for the creation of an expansive, inland waterway system;

Whereas the MKARNS is 445 river miles long, with 18 locks and dams, spans from Catoosa, Oklahoma, to the Mississippi River, and serves commerce from a 12-State region consisting of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, Texas, Colorado, Montana, Nebraska, Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Missouri, and Idaho;

Whereas the MKARNS provides year-round, accessible inland waterway transportation to 5 public ports, 50 private port terminals, and over 90 industries;

Whereas, on an annual basis, the MKARNS provides for \$8,500,000,000 in sales impacts, \$1,600,000,000 in transportation cost savings, and \$289,000,000 in business taxes;

Whereas the MKARNS contributes to 56,000 full- and part-time jobs, and 20 percent of all jobs in the United States are linked to waterborne commerce supported by the inland waterway system;

Whereas, on average, 11,000,000 tons of commodities with a value upwards of \$4,000,000,000 travels on the MKARNS annually, with sand, gravel, rock, chemical fertilizer, iron, and steel accounting for nearly 60 percent of all waterborne commerce;

Whereas there are 4 designated Foreign-Trade Zones along the navigation system at the public ports at Catoosa, Muskogee, Little Rock, and Pine Bluff;

Whereas the MKARNS allows for the lowest-cost and most environmentally friendly method of moving goods, with 1 barge transporting the equivalent of 15 jumbo railcars and 60 large semi-trailers;

Whereas, in 2015, the Corps upgraded the classification of the MKARNS from "Connector" to "Corridor" on the National Marine Highway, designated the MKARNS as a high-use waterway system, and labeled the MKARNS as Marine Highway 40;

Whereas Congress authorized multiple uses for the MKARNS, including navigation, flood control, hydropower, recreation, water supply, and wildlife conservation;

Whereas, through the end of 2020, Arkansas River Basin projects, including the MKARNS, are estimated to have cumulatively prevented nearly \$16,000,000,000 in flood damages in the Arkansas River Basin region;

Whereas there are 15 hydropower plants on the MKARNS which provide low-cost power to 7,000,000 people and produce 2,500,000 kilowatt-hours per year;

Whereas inland waterways provide many recreational opportunities, such as fishing, boating, and hiking, and over 4,000 recreational vessels lock through the MKARNS and 5,400,000 people visit Corps-operated

recreation areas along the MKARNS annually;

Whereas modernization of the MKARNS will empower future economic development, promote freight mobility, and expand agricultural exports and the movement of iron and steel products, while relieving congestion on our roads and bridges;

Whereas the increased backlog in critical maintenance causes the economic uncertainty of complete navigation disruption on the MKARNS, which would cost beneficiaries up to \$2,000,000 per day;

Whereas Congress authorized the MKARNS to be deepened to 12 feet in 2003, and approximately 90 percent of the MKARNS is already 12-feet deep;

Whereas the capacity of each barge could be increased by 200 tons for each additional foot of draft, increasing the overall freight capacity of the MKARNS by 40 percent and resulting in over \$250,000,000 in increased business sales annually; and

Whereas Oklahoma, Arkansas, the surrounding region, and the entire Nation have benefitted, and will continue to benefit, greatly from the MKARNS: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) honors 2021 as the 50th anniversary of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System;

(2) recognizes that investments in inland waterway navigation infrastructure are an investment in the long-term strength and security of the United States economy; and

(3) commits to completing the deepening of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System from 9 feet to 12 feet.

#### JAIME ZAPATA AND VICTOR AVILA FEDERAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES PROTECTION ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 61, S. 921.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 921) to amend title 18, United States Code, to further protect officers and employees of the United States, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic, as follows

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Jaime Zapata and Victor Avila Federal Officers and Employees Protection Act".*

#### SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

*It is the sense of Congress that—*

(1) since the founding of the Nation, officers and employees of the United States Government have dutifully and faithfully served the United States overseas, including in situations that place them at serious risk of death or bodily harm, in order to preserve, protect, and defend the interests of the United States;

(2) securing the safety of such officers and employees while serving overseas is of paramount importance and is also in furtherance of preserving, protecting, and defending the interests of the United States;

(3) Federal courts, including the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth