

Russia able to wage a successful information campaign to influence our election? To what extent were any members of Trump's Presidential campaign coordinating with that foreign attack on our democracy for political benefit?

These are vital questions that every American should know, and it is an outright disgrace that our Republican colleagues have not joined in in asking for this—so many of them—being as partisan as can be and putting their party over country. If Russia continues in these types of investigations, woe is America—woe is America.

Rather than this concerted campaign to sully the investigation and the FBI, President Trump and his allies should be encouraging them to do their job, to do it right, and to do it thoroughly. The stakes are too high and the topic too serious.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Jennifer Gillian Newstead, of New York, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays, and I yield back all time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, all time is yielded back.

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

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

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 88, nays 11, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 320 Ex.]

YEAS—88

Alexander	Burr	Coons
Baldwin	Cantwell	Corker
Barrasso	Capito	Cornyn
Bennet	Cardin	Cortez Masto
Blumenthal	Carper	Cotton
Blunt	Casey	Crapo
Booker	Cassidy	Cruz
Boozman	Cochran	Daines
Brown	Collins	Donnelly

Duckworth	King	Rubio
Durbin	Klobuchar	Sasse
Enzi	Lankford	Schumer
Ernst	Leahy	Scott
Feinstein	Lee	Shaheen
Fischer	Manchin	Shelby
Flake	McCaskill	Stabenow
Gardner	McConnell	Strange
Graham	Menendez	Sullivan
Grassley	Moran	Tester
Hassan	Murkowski	Thune
Hatch	Murphy	Tillis
Heitkamp	Murray	Toomey
Heller	Nelson	Udall
Hirono	Perdue	Van Hollen
Hoeven	Peters	Warner
Inhofe	Portman	Whitehouse
Isakson	Reed	Wicker
Johnson	Risch	Young
Kaine	Roberts	
Kennedy	Rounds	

NAYS—11

Franken	Markey	Schatz
Gillibrand	Merkley	Warren
Harris	Paul	Wyden
Heinrich	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—1

McCain

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.

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 5 minutes.

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

REPUBLICAN TAX BILL

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, there are many reasons to vote against the tax bill. A new one has come to light in examining these 1,100 pages, and that is with regard to Puerto Rico and what it does to Puerto Rico.

It ought to be enough that \$1.5 trillion is borrowed in order to finance a huge tax cut for multinational corporations, with incentives to send American jobs overseas. That ought to be enough, and it ought to be enough that compared to that, there are just crumbs for the hard-working, middle-class families, but there is more.

In this tax bill, indeed, CBO has said that 13 million people will lose health insurance as a result of something that was done to the Affordable Care Act.

Now, if all of that were not enough, and if you care about the people on the island of Puerto Rico who are reeling from two storms that hit them—a good part of the island still doesn't have electricity and still does not have potable water—and who were already in economic straits to begin with and wanting to keep jobs on the island so people don't have to flee—lo and behold, in the tax bill, what is given to American mainlanders is an increase in the child tax credit from \$1,000 to \$2,000 per child and making that refundable for low-income people up to \$1,400 per child—that increase to help poor, working families with children was not given to Puerto Rico.

That doesn't make sense, and it is just another reason why we should vote against the tax bill.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:52 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein, equally divided, until 3 p.m.

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

Mr. INHOFE. I also ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of the remarks of the Senator from Virginia, I be recognized for such time as I may consume.

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

The Senator from Virginia.

REPUBLICAN TAX BILL

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I thank my colleague, the Senator from Oklahoma.

I rise to talk about the tax debate that the Senate is currently having. I wish to highlight some of the reasons why I think this bill is bad and, frankly, focus on the missed opportunity that we are about to embark on when we could have found a much better project.

Let me tell you a story from when I was mayor. I was mayor of Richmond. I know my colleague from Oklahoma was mayor as well. I had a city council colleague who introduced a seemingly benign bill. It was a bill to limit the number of dogs and cats that anybody could have at their residence.

Now, pursuant to the city rules, we had to post this resolution in the newspaper for a couple of weeks so that citizens could read it, and we had a public hearing where any citizen who wanted to speak for or against the resolution had the opportunity to do so. Then, the city council members debated, and then we had a vote. It turned out to be a little more controversial than the council member originally contemplated.

When I was mayor, the minor little debate in the Richmond City Council about the number of pets you could have at your residence received more openness and transparency and discussion and debate than the vote that we