

Senator THUNE did everything he could to fulfill the commitment. He was having pressure not to do anything, I am sure, but he called his committee together. He is the chairman of the Commerce Committee. He reported Rosenworcel out to the Senate floor. There his authority stops. He doesn't have any power to do any more. He did what he felt he was obligated to do, and I felt he was obligated to do. It is now Senator MCCONNELL's problem, I guess. But a year went by. She still wasn't sent to the floor. That is when I talked to Senator THUNE—the first of many times. He did what he said he would do and reported her out.

A few months ago, in December of 2015, a year after we had made our agreement, I reminded Senator MCCONNELL of his commitment to do what he said he would do to quickly advance the nomination. He told me that the Senate would confirm her when we returned in 2016. January 2016 passed with no action. Before we left for the President's Day recess, I spoke again with Senators MCCONNELL and THUNE about Rosenworcel's nomination. February passed with no movement. March passed. Here we are, 21 days into April, with no confirmation.

I have waited. I have waited patiently for my friend to do the right thing. I have held off for months coming to the floor. What else would I do? What else could I do? I held off, hoping the Republican leader would deliver on the pledge that he gave to me.

I spoke again with him yesterday on the telephone, urging him to move her forward. He said to me: We'll do it next year. Next year she is out of a job. Her term expires at the end of this year. Her career will basically be over because of my accepting my counterpart's word. I told the Republican leader and I told Senator THUNE that I would not remain silent forever on this. I told both of them yesterday I was going to come to the floor.

The Republican leader, I hope, was aware of the words of Bob Dole, which I talked about earlier in my remarks. Dole said:

I knew that nothing else I did would matter very much if I ever forfeited the trust of my colleagues. As we all learn around here, if you don't keep your word, it doesn't make much difference what agenda you try to advance.

That was Robert Dole.

To say I am disappointed is an understatement. This is a commitment that was made to me about a year and a half ago. We have to keep our trust. This isn't an issue of my being offended. I have been offended. The Presiding Officer has been offended. We have all been offended. This isn't only personal with me, in taking the Republican leader's promise as a personal affront. It is not a personal affront to me. If it is, I will have to bear that. I think it is, but I can handle that. What I am concerned about is what it means for the Senate and what it means for a human being, a woman who works very hard every

day, trying to do the right thing for a very important part of our country.

I understand the Republican leader has a tough job. I know that. I had that job a lot longer than he has. Because of the dysfunction in his caucus, it is difficult, I am told and as we see, for him to get things done. But that is no excuse for someone not keeping their word. He could go into executive session. We would agree to that. He could file cloture. He could do this in many different ways.

I still expect him to live up to his commitment and get Commissioner Rosenworcel confirmed. I don't want this to be a bad time for the Senate if it continues. It is a bad day for the Senate now because you have to keep your word. That is all we have around here.

I see no one on the floor, and I will ask the Chair to announce what the Senate is going to do the rest of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Missouri.

ENERGY AND WATER APPROPRIATIONS BILL AND WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the bill that is on the floor. The very fact that we have this bill on the floor deserves some attention. We have an appropriations bill on the energy and water responsibilities of the Federal Government. I think this is the first time this bill has been on the Senate floor in 7 years.

With the current majority, the Appropriations Committee is 1 month ahead of any time in recent history that bills have been marked up and brought to the floor. The majority leader set aside 12 weeks to do the work that for decades—in fact, for a couple of centuries—was the core work of what the Congress did. The Congress set the priorities of the country by having an open and free debate on how the Congress and the country would spend the money that was entrusted to the Congress—the long-ranging discussion of the power of the purse. You know, you don't have to be a great student of American history to say: Well, don't you men and women in the Congress have the power of the purse? Well, we do have it, according to the Constitution, but we have not had it in the practice of the last 6 or 7 years when the work of the Congress simply

was not done in a way that people could see what was going on or that Members could freely weigh in.

One of the things about the debate we are having on this Energy and Water bill is that any Member of the Senate can come to the floor and they can say: Don't spend this money at all. In this bill, spend the money here rather than there. They can say some combination of those two things, and then the Senate votes on that before we approve the final bill.

I am pleased that we are debating this bill. That may actually be more important than the bill itself. But the bill itself is important as well.

This bill provides the critical resources to support the safety and long-term viability of our waterway systems. One of the reasons we are so competitive internationally and so competitive in our own domestic economy is that we have had the ability to use the waterways of the country—particularly the internal as well as the external waterways—in a way that makes us more competitive than we would be otherwise.

Our inland waterways in particular are critical to economic growth. We are right on the edge of a time when world food demand doubles from the Presiding Officer's State, from my State. Agriculture, which is the biggest economic sector of the economy, is in a great position not only to meet those food needs in our country but to meet food needs worldwide. That position is dramatically enhanced if we have a transportation system that doesn't just include highways and doesn't just include railroads but also includes the waterways of the country.

Another thing our two States have had in common—the Upper Missouri and the Lower Missouri—is the devastating challenges that flooding can present. This bill makes it possible for us to deal with flood control and navigation. Once again, this emphasizes that the Corps of Engineers can't just say these are the top two priorities of managing the Mississippi River Valley system, particularly the Missouri and Mississippi, but those really need to be apparent in their commitment to both flood control and navigation as things we want to do.

I am pleased this bill prioritizes things like the bank stabilization and navigation project on the Mississippi River, the tributaries project that is central to our flood control efforts in our State. I am also glad the bill increases funding for small ports and harbors to serve as vital places for us to compete.

You know, the inland ports are basically export ports. There is nothing wrong with buying things from other people, but it is better to sell things to other people. The inland ports serve a geographic area that is roughly twice as big as the coastal ports. That doesn't mean there is anything wrong with the coastal ports; it just means, let's get realistic about where we are