Brother—the brooding, omnipresent Federal Government—knows better. It can be trusted. Trust Big Brother. Sure, he is going to spy on you, but his intentions are good. Sure, he is going to spy on you, but he is really just hoping to go after the bad guys so that you don't have to worry about the fact he is spying on your neighbor, on your constituents, on innocent Americans.

Even if I am wrong—let's say, for a minute, that somehow I am mistaken in concluding that any of this will ever be abused—you can't really get around the fact that it has been abused. We know of circumstances in which it has been. We know that the President of the United States has himself been the target of abuse under this.

Yet set that aside for a minute. Even under the absurd proposition that none of this will ever be abused again and that PELOSI and NADLER and SCHIFF have somehow found the magical formula that will forever guarantee these expiring provisions from being abused again, why wouldn't you still want to make the bill better? Why would you be willing to let those provisions go dark? Why would you be willing to postpone the consideration of other pressing business before the U.S. Senate? Is it really that important to shut out of debate your opponents who happen to disagree with you? What does this say about the next thing we will consider or the next thing after that?

This doesn't end well. We know it doesn't end well. It never, ever works to push U.S. Senators to the point that they are told they are not entitled to their own opinions; that to the extent they have them, they may express them but only in a brief period of time; and that they then have to run off and be good little boys and girls and let the adults take over. No. I know that this is the way it has been working for a while, but it is not going to anymore. It is not going to anymore because the American people are demanding more. They are demanding better. Things sometimes have to get a little worse before they get better. Unfortunately, that is the position in which we now find ourselves. They have gotten worse, but they have gotten worse in a way that the American people are now noticing and are going to say: Don't do this anymore. Don't lock us out of the process. Don't tell us we don't matter. Don't tell us that our own elected Senators can't have a voice and that they won't get a vote and that they cannot debate it.

The President of the United States has been targeted unethically, unlawfully, unscrupulously by the deep state. We have the opportunity to fix that, to make sure it doesn't happen to this President or any future President or any U.S. citizen regardless of how rich or poor or powerful or powerless. We must fix it. Shame on all of us if we don't. Our oath to uphold, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States requires this. The American people deserve more, and they deserve better, and we must provide it.

(Mrs. FISCHER assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). The Democratic leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—SCHUMER BILL

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, in a moment, Democrats will ask the Senate's consent to take up and pass several measures that would immediately help American workers and American families cope with the impacts of coronavirus, including paid sick leave for workers, emergency unemployment insurance, and much needed assistance to States overburdened by Medicaid costs, known as FMAP.

These provisions are all included in legislation that will soon be passed by the House. Many of these policies have already been enacted by other countries dealing more successfully with the coronavirus than our country is.

These policies are targeted directly at the workers and families impacted by its spread. They are not going to the big, wealthy corporations or powerful people or wealthy people. They are going right at the workers and families—average working people who need the help.

Now, the Republican leader this morning called these provisions ''an ideological wish list.'' President Trump referred to them as ''goodies.''

If helping a construction worker who is laid off as a result of the virus is part of an ideological wish list, then God help those who believe that. If giving infected workers paid sick leave is a goody, then God help those who think that. If making sure our States, localities, hospitals, and first responders are compensated for their efforts is ideological, is a goody, those who believe those things have lost touch with the needs and aspirations of the American people, and they need to talk to some real people who have been impacted by the coronavirus, instead of sitting in their ideological towers.

With the comments made by the President and the Republican leader, they have revealed their own ideology—that even in a time of public crisis and need, the President and the Republican leader are more willing to entertain corporate tax cuts and bailing out industries than helping American workers and families.

The Senate should pass these bills today. The Republican leader should not be sending the Senate home for the weekend without taking action to help people who are or will soon be really hurting.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the Schumer bill that is at the desk, that the bill be considered read three times and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, this concept is under discussion, and it is a centerpiece of negotiations between the House Democrats and Secretary Mnuchin, which are ongoing.

This Chamber will be in session next week to ensure that we are taking needed actions to appropriately respond to the coronavirus.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Democratic leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3497

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3497, submitted earlier today; that the bill be considered read three times and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, this concept is also under discussion and the centerpiece of negotiations between House Democrats and Secretary Mnuchin, which are ongoing.

This Chamber will be in session next week to ensure that we are taking needed actions to appropriately respond to the coronavirus.

Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Washington.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3415

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, this is simple. We need people who are sick to stay home if we have any hope of slowing the spread of this virus, but, today, one in four private sector workers in our country cannot stay home from work without losing a day's pay or potentially a job.

We have got to fight this virus with everything we have—every single one of us—and that means we have to have policies in place that help people make the right choices for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Our bill will give all employees 14 paid sick days immediately—today, not next week, not the week after, today—in public health emergencies like this one, in addition to allowing them to accrue 7, meaning it would help workers and communities right now.

I urge Senate Republicans: Treat this like the public health crisis it is. Allow parents, families, businesses, communities to have the peace of mind to know that we are acting today and take this urgent needed step. This is nothing short of a chance to save lives and buy desperately needed time to fight this virus. Please don't waste it.