strengthen oversight of our Nation's intelligence activities at a time when it is desperately needed.

This bill passed the Senate with broad bipartisan support, but we are still waiting for the House to show up for work and to take it up and pass it. They are not coming back until the 27th, I think, of this month, after what can only aptly be described as a drive-by vote last Friday after not having been in town for 2 weeks and leaving promptly thereafter.

Now that they have completed their work on their $3 trillion wish list, I hope we will see some action soon on things that will keep our country safe.

That is only part of the critical national security work we have done here in the Senate since we returned to Washington earlier this month.

I applaud Majority Leader MCCONNELL for bringing us back. People are hearing all sorts of scary things on social media and cable news and even conscious disinformation campaigns by some of our adversaries about this virus and about how we ought to conduct ourselves. The best thing we can do as Members of the Senate is to demonstrate that with a little bit of personal responsibility and respect for others—maintaining social distancing, masking when you can—we can actually still function. We can show up for work like those healthcare workers, those law enforcement officers, and others I mentioned a moment ago.

One of the things our majority leader likes to say is that the Senate is in the personnel business. Today, we confirmed a fellow member of the Texas congressional delegation, Congressman JOHN RATCLIFFE, to be the Director of National Intelligence. I have known JOHN for about 10 years—or more maybe. He is prepared to continue the legacy of outstanding leadership we have come to expect and count on in our Director of National Intelligence. I am confident in his ability to serve as a leader and advocate for the intelligence professionals in the intelligence community.

We also confirmed other important nominees for critical positions, including the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, and the Department of Homeland Security. Just as the work of the country has waged on in the face of these challenges, so must our work.

The American people are not just counting on healthcare workers and first responders and farmers and deliverymen and grocery store employees to do their jobs—as important as they are. They are counting on us, too, not only to continue to respond to this pandemic—to stay nimble and adapt, to watch and listen and learn on how we can do better—but also to strengthen our national security, keep an eye on our national debt, and do it all on a bipartisan basis.

Like workers across America, Congress needs to show up, especially when it isn't easy or convenient. This pandemic may have temporarily halted the daily functions of many people in this country, but it cannot stop the critical work of the U.S. Congress on behalf of the people we are privileged to represent.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

(The remarks of Senator COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of S. 3833 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, a few announcements for the information of all of our colleagues.

When we reconvene after meeting with our constituents and monitoring the pandemic response in our States, the Senate will first continue to fill critical vacancies in the executive branch.

This week, we confirmed a new Director of National Intelligence. In just a moment, we will confirm a new Secretary of the Navy.

But our Democratic colleagues would not let the Senate fill several more posts over at the Pentagon. So, as has sadly become the norm over the last 3 years, the Senate will be spending floor time and multiple rollcall votes on each of the following: an Assistant Secretary of Defense and the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy.

If you can believe this, I also had to file cloture on the incoming Special Inspector General for Pandemic Recovery. If we had a nickel for every time our Democratic colleagues have claimed that congressional oversight of the recovery programs was important, the CARES Act would have paid for itself. Yet Democrats blocked the confirmation of the special inspector general to look over the program this week.

The Senate will prepare to confirm these qualified people the hard way. Three years and counting of Democratic heel-dragging continues.

Of course, there will be plenty of legislative business before us as well. Senators will continue to monitor the pandemic response and discuss ways to help the Nation pivot toward reopening and economic recovery.

In addition, thanks to the hard work of Senators GARDNER and DAINES, we will be able to take up their bipartisan Great American Outdoors Act in the next work period. It is a milestone achievement to secure public lands and ensure their upkeep well into the future.

We will have the National Defense Authorization Act so that we do not let this pandemic take our eye off the ball of our Nation's security.

We will have much work to do in our home States next week. We will have much to do when we get back here after that. All around the Nation, Americans are taking precautions, but they are continuing to show up to do essential jobs and keep the Nation going. The Senate is not going to be any exception to showing up.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 654.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kenneth J. Braithwaite, of Pennsylvania, to be Secretary of the Navy.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

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

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of PN1608 and PN1333, and the Senate proceed to the consideration of the nominations en bloc.

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

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Christopher T. Hanson, of Michigan, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2024; and David A. Wright, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2025.

There being no objection, the Committee on Environment and Public