



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2019

No. 69

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Sacred Father, open the hearts of our lawmakers to the joy and beauty of Your providence. Provide them with a greater appreciation of Your favor, wisdom, and grace. Remind them of Your plans to keep them from stumbling and present them before Your glory with great joy. In their weakness, impart Your strength. In their fatigue, give them renewal. Empower them with a moral and spiritual stamina to walk in the paths of integrity and courage.

And, Lord, as houses of worship face the reality of criminal violence, sustain and keep all who labor to bring Your peace on Earth and good will to humanity.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAWLEY). The Senator from Iowa.

DIRECTING THE REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES IN THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS—VETO

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, for the leader, is there a message at the desk in reference to S.J. Res. 7?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate a commu-

nication of the Secretary of the Senate regarding that matter.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

UNITED STATES SENATE,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
April 29, 2019.

Hon. MICHAEL R. PENCE,

*President of the Senate,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On Wednesday, April 17, 2019, the President of the United States sent by messenger the attached sealed envelope addressed to the President of the Senate dated April 17, 2019, said to contain a veto message on the bill S.J. Res. 7, a Joint Resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress. The Senate not being in session on the last day which the President had for the return of this bill under the provisions of the Constitution of the United States, in order to protect the interests of the Senate so that it might have the opportunity to reconsider the bill, I accepted the message at 10:20 a.m., and I now present to you the President's veto message, with the accompanying papers, for disposition by the Senate.

Respectfully,

JULIE E. ADAMS,
Secretary of the Senate.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, for the leader, is the veto message with the papers attached at the desk?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. It is.

Mr. GRASSLEY. For the leader, I ask unanimous consent that the veto message on S.J. Res. 7 be considered as having been read and that it be printed in the RECORD and spread in full upon the Journal.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The veto message is ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

To the Senate of the United States:

I am returning herewith without my approval S.J. Res. 7, a joint resolution that purports to direct the President to remove United States Armed Forces from hostilities in or affecting the Republic of Yemen, with certain exceptions. This resolution is an unneces-

sary, dangerous attempt to weaken my constitutional authorities, endangering the lives of American citizens and brave service members, both today and in the future.

This joint resolution is unnecessary because, apart from counterterrorism operations against al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula and ISIS, the United States is not engaged in hostilities in or affecting Yemen. For example, there are no United States military personnel in Yemen commanding, participating in, or accompanying military forces of the Saudi-led coalition against the Houthis in hostilities in or affecting Yemen.

Since 2015, the United States has provided limited support to member countries of the Saudi-led coalition, including intelligence sharing, logistics support, and, until recently, in-flight refueling of non-United States aircraft. All of this support is consistent with applicable Arms Export Control Act authorities, statutory authorities that permit the Department of Defense to provide logistics support to foreign countries, and the President's constitutional power as Commander in Chief. None of this support has introduced United States military personnel into hostilities.

We are providing this support for many reasons. First and foremost, it is our duty to protect the safety of the more than 80,000 Americans who reside in certain coalition countries that have been subject to Houthi attacks from Yemen. Houthis, supported by Iran, have used missiles, armed drones, and explosive boats to attack civilian and military targets in those coalition countries, including areas frequented by American citizens, such as the airport in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. In addition, the conflict in Yemen represents a "cheap" and inexpensive way for Iran to cause trouble for the United States and for our ally, Saudi Arabia.

S.J. Res. 7 is also dangerous. The Congress should not seek to prohibit

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S2469