This being the day fixed pursuant to the 20th Amendment to the Constitution for the meeting of the Second Session of the 116th Congress, the House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. RASKIN).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:


I hereby appoint the Honorable JAMIE RASKIN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another year.

We give You thanks also for the First Session of the 116th Congress and Your sustaining us with Your presence, wisdom, patience, and love. We ask that the efforts of the First Session might prove fruitful in the benefits redounding to our Nation and its people.

We ask Your blessing now on each Member of Congress, that they might be their best selves in representing not only their constituents, but also, the entire American citizenry. They have taken oaths to do so; give them the strength and the wisdom to fulfill those oaths.

We thank You, as well, for this marvelous forum, where the important business of this Nation has been done in the past and will be done in the upcoming Second Session. May the work to be done be inspired by the wisdom of prophets and the love of saintly people. May all that we do be done for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore, The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 8(a) of House Resolution 758, no organizational or legislative business will be conducted on this day.

Messages requiring action will be laid before the House on a subsequent day.

Bills and resolutions introduced today will receive a number but will not be referred to committee or noted in the RECORD until a subsequent day. Executive communications, memorials, and petitions likewise will be referred and numbered on a subsequent day.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 8(c) of House Resolution 758, the House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, January 7, 2020.

Thereupon (at 12 o’clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until Tuesday, January 7, 2020, at 2 p.m.
The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Honorable Pat Roberts, a Senator from the State of Kansas.

PRAYER
The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:
Let us pray.
Father of all, in a world where each new day seems to bring the chaotic and unexpected, we praise You that You are the same yesterday, today, and forever. Lord, You are our help in ages past. You are our hope for years to come. Give us this day wisdom to know Your words and obey Your precepts. May we show our gratitude with obedience because You have demonstrated Your might, wisdom, and love throughout the days of our earthly pilgrimage.
As our lawmakers follow Your lead, may they trust You to carve tunnels of hope through mountains of despair. Give our Senators the courage to embrace integrity with a clear conscience. May they not retreat from life’s battles but faithfully keep their hands in Yours.
We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. Grassley).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:


To the Senate:
Under the provisions of rule 1, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable Pat Roberts, a Senator from the State of Kansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY, President pro tempore.

Mr. ROBERTS thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished Senate majority leader is recognized.

IRAQ
Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this morning, Iran’s master terrorist is dead. The architect and chief engineer of the world’s most active state sponsor of terrorism has been removed from the battlefield at the hand of the U.S. military. No man alive was more directly responsible for the deaths of more American servicemembers than Qasem Soleimani, the leader of the Quds Force within Iran’s Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Soleimani’s schemes and his agents killed hundreds of American servicemembers in Iraq and Afghanistan. He personally oversaw the state-sponsored terrorism that Iran used to kill our sons and daughters. As we have seen in recent days and weeks, he and his terrorists posed an ongoing and growing threat to American lives and American interests.

Soleimani made it his life’s work to take the Iranian revolutionary calls for “Death to America” and “Death to Israel” and turn them into action, but this terrorist mastermind was not just a threat to the United States and Israel. For more than a decade he masterminded Iran’s malevolent and destabilizing work throughout the entire Middle East. He created, sustained, and directed terrorist proxies everywhere from Yemen to Iraq, to Syria, to Lebanon. Innocents were killed. These sovereign countries were destabilized.

In Syria this leading terrorist and his agents acted as strategists, enablers, and accomplices to Bashar al-Assad’s brutal repression and the slaughter of the Syrian people.

In Iraq, his violence expanded Iran’s influence at the expense of the Iraqis themselves. His dark, sectarian vision disenfranchised countless Sunni Arabs and paved the way for the rise of ISIS. With ISIS largely defeated, Soleimani and his agents again turned their sights on controlling the Iraqi people, who through massive protests are rejecting not only a corrupt government but also Iran’s influence over that government. Once again, there were Iran and its proxies facilitating violence against these peaceful protesters.

For too long this evil man operated without constraint, and countless innocents have suffered for it. Now his terrorist leadership has been ended.

Predictably enough, in this political environment, the operation that led to Soleimani’s death may prove controversial or divisive. Although I anticipate and welcome a debate about America’s interests and foreign policy in the Middle East, I recommend that all Senators wait to review the facts before passing much public judgment on this operation and its potential consequences.

The administration will be briefing staff today on the situation in Iraq. We are working to arrange a classified briefing for all Senators early next week.

For my part, I have spoken to the Secretary of Defense, and I am encouraged by the steps the U.S. military is taking to defend American personnel...
and interests from a growing Iranian threat. I know I speak for the entire Senate when I say that my prayers are with all American diplomats, personnel, and brave servicemembers serving in Iraq and in the Middle East. I am grateful for their courageous service to our country.

Right from the outset of this new year, it is already clear that 2020 will require the Senate and our whole Nation to redouble our resolve to keep America safe in this troubled world.

**IMPEACHMENT**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on an entirely different matter, of course, we also anticipate that another totally different, very serious item will be heading the Senate’s way soon. The Senate will have to address some of the deepest institutional questions contemplated by our Constitution. We will have to decide whether we are going to let short-term partisan rage overcome them.

Back in December, I explained how House Democrats’ sprint into the most rushed, least fair and least thorough impeachment inquiry in American history has jeopardized the foundations of our system of government.

Last spring, Speaker Pelosi told the country: “Impeachment is so divisive to the country unless there’s something so compelling and an overwhelming and bipartisan, I don’t think we should go down that path.” That was the Speaker less than a year ago.

Back in 1998, when Democrats were busy defending President Clinton, Congressman Jerry Nadler said: There must never be a narrowly-voted impeachment, or an impeachment substantially supported by one of our major political parties and largely opposed by the other. Such an impeachment would lack legitimacy.

Congressman Jerry Nadler said this 20 years ago. That was, obviously, the standard when a Democrat was in the White House, but, ultimately, House Democrats cared more about attacking President Trump than keeping their promises. So they rushed through a slapdash investigation. They decided not to bother with the standard legal processes for pursuing witnesses and evidence. There was not enough time to do that.

Chairman Adam Schiff told the entire country on national television that getting court decisions takes a long time and he did not want to wait. It takes a long time to go to court. So they just—went right ahead with a historically weak case—and impeached a duly elected President with votes from just one—just one—political party.

Democrats have let Trump derange our system of government. They have jeopardized the foundations of our constitutional system. I believe we should simply repeat that unanimous bipartisan precedent at this time as well. That is my position. President Trump should get the same treatment that every single Senator thought was fair for President Clinton. Just like 20 years ago, we should address midterms, such as witnesses, after briefs, opening arguments, Senator questions, and other relevant motions. Fair is fair.

Let’s discuss these lectures about how Senators should do our jobs. The oath that Senators take in impeachment trials to “do impartial justice according to the Constitution and laws” has never meant that Senators should wall themselves off from the biggest news stories of the Nation and completely ignore what the House has been doing. The oath has never meant that Senators check all of their political judgment at the door and strip away all of our independent judgment about what is best for the Nation. It has never meant that, and it never could.

The Framers debated whether to give the power to try impeachments to a court or to the Senate and decided on the Senate precisely because impeachment is not a narrow legal question—but a deeply political one as well. Hamilton said this explicitly in Federalist 65.

Impeachment requires the Senate to address both legal questions about what has been proved and political questions about what the common good of our Nation requires.

Senators do not cease to be Senators just because the House sends us Articles of Impeachment. Our job remains the same—to represent our constituents, and our Nation’s best interests in the great matters of our time. That is our obligation whether we are voting on legislation, nominations, or the verdict in an impeachment.

Twenty years ago, I would add, Democrats understood all of this very well. President Clinton had obviously committed an actual felony. President Clinton had actually committed a felony that—Democrats agreed that it was a felony that—Democrats convicted in the narrow sense of impartiality they have now adopted as a talking point, then every single one of them would have voted to remove President Clinton from office. Oh, no. Instead, a majoritarian of the Senate decided that removing President Clinton, despite his proven and actual crimes, would not best serve the Nation. They made a political judgment. By the way, back then, leading Democrats had zero—zero—objections to Senators speaking out against the trial.

The current Democratic leader, Senator Schumer, was running for the Senate during the House impeachment

As soon as the partisan impeachment votes had finished, the prosecutors began to develop cold feet. Instead of sending the articles to the Senate, they flinched. They flinched.

That is right. The same people who had just spent weeks scrambling that impeachment was so serious and so urgent that they couldn’t wait for due process now decided that it could wait indefinitely while they checked the political winds and looked for new talking points.

This is yet another situation where House Democrats have blown right past the specific warnings of our Founding Fathers. Alexander Hamilton specifically warned about the dangers of a “procrastinated determination of the charges” in an impeachment. He explained it would not be fair to the accused and it would be dangerous for the country. Speaker Pelosi apparently does not care. Her conference is behaving more like a campaign manager or political consultant than a Senator who is openly coordinating political strategy with the Speaker, who some might call the prosecution.

So it is OK to have consultation with the prosecution, but not, apparently, with the defendant.

We have heard claims that any Senator who formed opinions about House Democrats’ irresponsible and unprecedented actions as they played out in the view of the entire Nation should be disqualified from the next phase. Obviously, this is nonsense—nonsense.

Let me clarify Senate rules and Senate history for those who may be confused.

First, about this fantasy that the Speaker of the House will get to hand-pick the jury. For starters, the Speaker is the party leader. If Democrats decided that impeachment was so serious and so urgent that it couldn’t wait for due process, then they had to decide whether we are going to let short-term partisan rage overcome them.

In the narrow sense of impartiality they have now adopted as a talking point, then every single one of them would have voted to remove President Clinton from office. Oh, no. Instead, a majoritarian of the Senate decided that removing President Clinton, despite his proven and actual crimes, would not best serve the Nation. They made a political judgment. By the way, back then, leading Democrats had zero—zero—objections to Senators speaking out against the trial.

The current Democratic leader, Senator Schumer, was running for the Senate during the House impeachment
process back in 1998. He voted against the articles both in the House Judiciary Committee and on the House floor. Listen to this, a major part of his Senate campaign that year was literally New Yorkers in advance—in advance—that he would vote to acquit President Clinton.

People asked if it was appropriate for him to prejudge like that. He dismissed the question, saying: “This is not a criminal trial but . . . something the founding fathers decided to put in a body that was subject to the whims of politics.” That was the Democratic leader in the 1998 Senate campaign that. That was the newly sworn-in Senator Schumer in 1999.

A few weeks later, during the trial itself, Democratic Senator Tom Harkin successfully objected to the use of the word “jurors” to describe Senators because the analogy to a narrow legal proceeding was so inappropriate, according to Senator Harkin.

I respect our friends across the aisle, but it appears that one symptom of Trump derangement syndrome is also a bad case of amnesia—a bad case of amnesia.

No Member of this body needs to descend lectures on fairness from House Democrats who just rushed through the most unfair impeachment in modern history or lectures on impartiality from Senators who happily prejudged the case with President Clinton and simply changed their standards to suit the political winds.

Anyone who knows American history or understands the Constitution knows that a Senator’s role in an impeachment trial is nothing—nothing like the job of jurors in the legal system. The very things that make the Senate the right forum to settle impeachments would disqualify all of us in an ordinary trial. All of us would be disqualified in an ordinary trial.

Like many Americans, Senators have paid great attention to the facts and the arguments that House Democrats have rolled out publicly before the Nation. Many of us personally know the parties on both sides.

This is a political body. We do not stand apart from the issues of the day. It is our job to be deeply engaged in those issues, but—and this is critical—the Senate is unique by design.

The Framers built the Senate to provide a check against short-term passions, the runaway passions, and “the demon faction” that Hamilton warned would “extend his sceptre” over the House of Representatives “at certain seasons.”

We exist because the Founders wanted an institution that could stop momentary hysteria and partisan passions from damaging our Republic, an institution that could be thoughtful, be sober, and take the long view.

That is why the Constitution puts the impeachment trial in this place, not because Senators should pretend they are uninformed, unopinionated, or disinterested in the long-term political questions that an impeachment of the President poses but precisely because we are informed; we are opinionated, and we can take up these weighty questions. That is the meaning of the oath we take. That is the task that lies before us.

“Impartial justice” means making up our minds on the right basis. It means putting aside purely reflective partisanship and putting aside personal relationships and animosities. It means cooling considering the facts that the House has presented and then rendering the verdict we believe is best for our States, our Constitution, and our way of life. It means seeing clearly not what some might wish the House of Representatives had proven but what they actually have or have not proven.

It means looking past a single news cycle to see how overturning an election would reverberate for generations.

You better believe Senators have started forming opinions about these critical questions over the last weeks or months. We sure have, especially in light of the precedent-breaking theatrics that House Democrats chose to engage in.

Here is where we are. Their turn is over. They have done enough damage. It is the Senate’s turn now to render sober judgment as the Framers envisioned, but we can’t hold a trial without the articles. The Senate’s own rules don’t provide for that. So, for now, we are content to continue the ordinary business of the Senate while House Democrats continue to flounder—for now.

If they ever muster the courage to stand behind their slapdash work product and transmit their articles to the Senate, it will then be time for the U.S. Senate to fulfill our founding purpose.

**RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

**MORNING BUSINESS**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The majority leader.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**EXECUTIVE CALENDAR**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 555.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will read the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jovita Carranza, of Illinois, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

**CLOTURE MOTION**

Mr. McCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

**CLOTURE MOTION**

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Jovita Carranza, of Illinois, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.


Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**MORNING BUSINESS**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3148**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3148) to amend the Controlled Substances Act to list fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances.

Mr. McCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceeding.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. An objection being heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar on the next legislative day.

**LETTER OF RESIGNATION**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand the Chair received a letter of resignation of the former Senator
Johnny Isakson of Georgia, which was effective at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 31, 2019.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished leader is correct.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the letter be spread upon the Journal and printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The letter follows:

UNITED STATES SENATE
Hon. BRIAN KEMP, Governor,
State of Georgia,
Atlanta, Georgia.

Dear Governor Kemp: It has been the honor and privilege of a lifetime to serve the state of Georgia in the U.S. Senate since 2005. As you know, I have been battling health challenges for several years, and after much prayer and consultation with my family and doctors, I have decided I will leave the Senate before the end of my term.

I therefore am notifying you that I am resigning my U.S. Senate seat effective at 5 p.m. on December 31, 2019. While it pains me greatly to leave in the middle of my term, I know it is the right thing to do for the citizens of Georgia.

I pledge to you that my staff and I will do everything we can to help whomever you appoint to serve in this seat.

Thank you for your service to our great state.

Sincerely,

JOHNNY ISAKSON.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, January 6; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Carranza nomination; finally, that the cloture motion filed during today’s session ripen at 5:30 p.m., Monday.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMPEACHMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I just heard Leader MCCONNELL speak for 30 minutes on the subject of the President’s impeachment. There was a lot of finger-pointing, name-calling, and misreading of history but not a single argument or discussion about the issue that is holding up the Senate trial: whether there will be witnesses and documents—not one mention. He has no good argument against having witnesses and documents, so he resorts to these subterfuges I will have more to say on impeachment momentarily, but I first want to address the issue of Iran.

IRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last night, the United States conducted a military operation designed to kill Major General Qasem Soleimani, a notorious terrorist. No one should shed a tear over his death. The operation against Soleimani in Iraq was conducted, however, without specific authorization and any advance notification or consultation with Congress.

I am a member of the Gang of 8, which was briefed in advance of operations of this level of significance. We were not. The need for advance consultation and transparency with Congress was put in the Constitution for a reason—because the lack of advance consultation and transparency with Congress can lead to hasty and ill-considered decisions. When the security of the Nation is at stake, decisions must not be made in a vacuum. The Framers of the Constitution gave war powers to the legislature and made the executive the Commander in Chief for the precise reason of forcing the two branches of government to consult with one another when it came to matters of war and peace.

It is paramount for an administration to get an outside view to prevent groupthink and rash action and to be asked probing questions, not from your inner and often insulated circle but from others—particularly Congress—which forces an administration, before it acts, to answer very serious questions. The administration did not consult in this case, and I fear that those very serious questions have not been answered and may not be fully considered.

Among those questions: What was the legal basis for conducting this operation? How far does that legal basis extend? Iran has many dangerous surrogates and a whole range of possible responses. Which responses do we expect? Which are most likely? Do we have plans to counter all of the possible responses? How effective will our counters be? What does this action mean for the stability of the Middle East? What does this action mean for the long-term stability of our Nation? How does this action impact the Commander in Chief’s ability to provide oversight of the military operation designed to kill Soleimani? Congress needs answers to these questions and others from the administration immediately.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the Senate begins this second session of the 116th Congress preparing to do something that has happened only twice before in American history: serving as a court of impeachment in a trial of the President of the United States.

President Donald J. Trump stands accused by the House of Representatives of committing one of the offenses the Founding Fathers most feared when it came to the stability of the Republic: abusing the powers of his office for personal gain and soliciting the interference of a foreign power in our elections to benefit himself. The House has also charged the President with obstructing Congress in the investigation into those matters, the consequence of an unprecedented blockade of relevant witnesses and documents—flatly denying the legislative branch’s constitutional authority to provide oversight of the Executive.

As all eyes turn to the Senate, the question before us is, Will we fulfill our duty to conduct a fair impeachment trial of the President of the United States or will we not? That is the most pressing question facing the Senate at the outset of this second session of the 116th Congress. Will we conduct a fair trial that examines all the facts or not?

The country just saw Senator MCCONNELL’s answer to that question. His answer is no. Instead of trying to find the truth, he is still using the same feeble talking points he was using last December. The country just saw how the Republican leader views his responsibility at this pivotal moment in our Nation’s history. The Republican leader prefers finger-pointing and name-calling to avoid answering the looming question: Why shouldn’t the Senate call witnesses? The Republican leader hasn’t given one good reason why there shouldn’t be relevant witnesses or relevant documents. We did not hear one from Leader MCCONNELL today or any day.

It is my view that the President does not have the authority for a war with Iran. If he plans a large increase in troops and potential hostility over a longer time, the administration will require congressional approval and the approval of the American people.

The President’s decision may add to an already dangerous and difficult situation in the Middle East. The risk of a much longer military engagement in the Middle East is acute and immediate. This action may well have brought our Nation closer to another endless war—exactly the kind of endless war the President promised he would not drag us into.

Our citizens and those of our allies evacuate Iraq and troops prepare for retaliatory action, Congress needs answers to these questions and others from the administration immediately, and the American people need answers as well.
Once again, Leader McConnell tried to bury his audience under an avalanche of partisan recriminations and misleading references to precedents. There is only one precedent that matters here: that never, never in the history of our country has there been an impeachment trial of the President in which the Senate was denied the ability to hear from witnesses. Let me repeat that. That is the salient fact here. There is only one precedent that matters: There has never, never in the history of our country been an impeachment trial of the President in which the Senate was denied the ability to hear from witnesses. Yet the Republican leader seeks to override that precedent and deny critical evidence to this body and to the American people.

Leader McConnell has been clear and vocal that he has no intention to be impartial in this process. Leader McConnell reminds us today and previous days that rather than acting like a judge and a juror, he intends to act as the executioner of a fair trial. Thankfully, the rules of the impeachment trial will be determined by the majority of Senators in this Chamber, not by the leader alone.

The crux of the issue still is whether the Senate will hear testimony from witnesses and receive documentary evidence directly relevant to the charges against the President. Since Congress recessed for the holidays, there have been several events that have significantly bolstered my argument for four specific witnesses and specific categories of documents. Nothing—nothing—in that time has bolstered Leader McConnell’s argument that there shouldn’t be relevant witnesses or documents.

On December 21, the Center for Public Integrity obtained emails through a Freedom of Information Act request that include an email from Michael Duffey, a top OMB official and one of the four witnesses I have requested, asking the Defense Department to “hold off” on sending military aid to Ukraine 91 minutes after President Trump’s July phone call with Ukrainian President Zelensky.

On December 29, the New York Times’ report included several revelations about the extent of Chief of Staff Mulvaney’s involvement in the delayed military assistance. In the article, the New York Times reported that the Trump administration was delaying military assistance to Ukraine. It is completely redacted. Every word crossed out. Not available. Can’t be seen.

Second, Leader McConnell’s comparisons to 1999 are hopelessly flawed and inaccurate. There were witnesses in 1999, Leader McConnell. You want to compare the 2019 case to the Clinton trial. In 1999, the witnesses in question had already testified under oath extensively, and there were also bipartisan concerns about the suitability of the subject matter for the floor of the Senate. There is no analogy to today’s situation. The witnesses we have requested never testified under oath, and the documents we have requested have not been produced.

Fourth, we have a tradition in America of a fair and speedy trial. That is why we requested only the relevant information, up front, so that the trial can truly be speedy and fair. It makes no sense and, in fact, it is a ruse to suggest that the Senate wait until the end of the trial to settle the hardest question, when it might take time for witnesses to prepare testimony and for the Senate to review new documentary evidence. We can and should begin that process now and ensure that the trial is in the hands of the fact-finder and does not suffer unnecessary delays.

Fifth and, finally, when Leader McConnell suggests that we have both sides present their arguments and then deal with witnesses, he is essentially proposing to conduct a whole trial and, then, once the trial is basically over, consider the question of evidence. That makes no sense. That is “Alice in Wonderland” logic. The trial must be informed by the evidence, not the other way around. The House managers have a right to present all of the evidence to make their case, not make their case and, then, afterward, ask for evidence we know is out there.

January 3, 2020
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE S5

Yesterday was from Michael Duffey—one of the witnesses we have requested—to the Pentagon comptroller, and it reads: “Clear direction from POTUS [the President] to continue the hold.” Clear direction from the President to continue the hold is what Michael Duffey wrote. What constituted “clear direction”? Did Michael Duffey get an order from the President, or did someone like Mr. Mulvaney get an order from the President that was passed on to Mr. Duffey? Were there discussions about what constituted the hold or how the hold was set up, or even what constitutes the hold itself? Did Mulvaney’s involvement in the delayed military assistance from parts of the administration officials about the propriety and legality of the President’s decision to delay military assistance to Ukraine. One of those emails released
If we don’t get a commitment up front that the House managers will be able to call witnesses as part of their case, the Senate will act as little more than a nationally televised meeting of the mock trial club.

If we leave the witness question and documents until after all of the presentations are complete, Leader MCCONNELL will argue that the Senate has heard enough and we shouldn’t prolong the trial any longer. At that point, you can be sure he will label anyone who wants to subpoena evidence as a partisan who wants to drag the whole affair out.

I know this because he has already told us what his position will be. This is not a mystery. “After we’ve heard the arguments,” Leader MCCONNELL said on FOX News, “we ought to vote and move on.” Does that sound like someone who, in good faith, intends to have the Senate reasonably consider witnesses at a later date? No, it does not.

Leader MCCONNELL’s proposal to vote on witnesses and documents later is nothing more than a poorly disguised trap. “We heard the arguments,” Leader MCCONNELL said, “we ought to vote and move on.”

All of my fellow Senators—Democrat and Republican—should take stock of the leader’s words and remember the commitment he made on national television to take his cues from the White House.

I say to the Chair, it may feel like we are no closer to establishing the rules for a fair trial than what we last met, but the question—the vital question—of whether or not we have a fair trial ultimately rests with a majority of the Senators in this Chamber.

The President faces gravely serious charges—abuse of power, abuse of his public trust, soliciting the interference of a foreign power in our elections, unprecedented obstruction of Congress—and, if convicted, the President faces the most severe punishment the Constitution imagines. The Framers gave us—this Chamber, the U.S. Senate—the sole power to discharge this most difficult and somber duty. Will the Senate rise to the occasion?

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tem. The Chair recognizes the distinguished Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I start by thanking Senator SCHUMER, the minority leader, for his pursuit of a fair impeachment trial in the Senate, something supported by the overwhelming majority of the American people, whether they be Republicans, Democrats, or Independents.

The sooner we undertake this most serious of its duties—considering the impeachment of a President. None of us relish this moment, but we all have a solemn responsibility under the Constitution to try this case, to assess the evidence, and to render fair judgment.

We will hear a case from the House of Representatives and from the President’s lawyers, and we will first be sworn in to do “impartial justice according to the Constitution and laws.”

While Senators are primarily expected to listen to the evidence and weigh that evidence, we also have a special responsibility here that we do not have: We can request additional information, we can request witnesses, and we can request documents. It only takes a simple majority, 51 Senators, to call witnesses and request those documents.

In President Clinton’s impeachment trial, three witnesses were deposed even though they had all given prior sworn testimony in related proceedings. At that time, now-Majority Leader MCCONNELL called their request for testimony “modest”—a modest request.

Senate Democrats have another modest request that is pending today. We would like to hear from four witnesses who have not testified previously, who did not testify in the House, who have not testified under penalty of perjury, like we saw other House witnesses testify.

Why is that? That is because President Trump has ordered them not to testify. Thursday, President Trump’s White House Acting Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney, former National Security Advisor John Bolton, and top administration officials Michael Duffey and Robert Blair. We are also asking the Senate to request key documents the President has refused to provide.

We know these are relevant witnesses. We know it even more after the reporting from this week, which has shown that these four witnesses have clear, firsthand knowledge of withholding appropriated funds for Ukraine to fight Russian aggression—one of the actions at the center of the House’s abuse-of-power charge.

Newly revealed emails, which the Trump administration tried to keep secret, show that just 91 minutes after President Trump had his call with Ukrainian President Zelensky, Mr. Duffey emailed the Department of Defense and their officials to inform them that the administration would formally withhold military assistance for Ukraine. We know that days after the phone call, Mr. Duffey, a political appointee, took over the Ukraine portfolio from a career civil servant at OMB, under the guise of wanting to “learn about the appropriation process.”

The administration claims that the reason for the hold was to conduct a review of Ukraine assistance, even though the hold was formally ordered by the administration. It was the same administration that personally pressured President Zelensky to investigate Vice President Joe Biden and the 2016 election in order to boost President Trump’s personal political agenda.

There is no evidence that any real review of assistance to Ukraine took place, and none of the emails about the hold on assistance discuss any review in the near future. We now know that Mr. Duffey tried to keep the hold a secret, known to as few people as possible.

Here is what he wrote in his email informing the Department of Defense about the hold: “Given the sensitive nature of the request, I appreciate your keeping that information closely held to those who need to know to execute the direction.”

We also know that OMB would eventually issue nine of what they called footnotes from July to September to delay releasing the congressionally authorized funding for assistance to Ukraine. The emails that have surfaced also reveal that the Defense Department raised concerns about the OMB was breaking the law—something the administration has tried to hide.

Congress, many years ago, passed a law called the Impoundment Control Act to address situations like this, where funding is withheld, but the President—whoever the President may be—refuses to spend it. The Impoundment Control Act only allows the executive branch to withhold funding in very limited circumstances. It requires the President to notify Congress if they withholds legally appropriated funding, something President Trump never did when he withheld assistance to Ukraine.

In addition to abusing his power by pressuring Ukraine to interfere in our elections, I think the evidence will also show that President Trump violated the Impoundment Control Act. I have asked the Government Accountability Office to look into this and give us an independent legal opinion. GAO is working on this now. As part of their review, they asked the Trump administration to explain what happened. In their response, OMB claimed that the Defense Department’s general counsel never told OMB that the hold would legally prevent the funds from being spent before they expire at the end of the fiscal year. Thanks to newly revealed emails—in fact, emails that we saw in their unredacted form for the first time yesterday—we know that these emails, at best, extremely misleading.

As the hold continued, Defense Department officials repeatedly raised concerns about its legality. In an email sent on August 27, the Defense Department shared a draft letter that they had prepared to send to OMB that included the following sentence about continuing to withhold funding for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, called USAID for short. Here is what they wrote: “As a legal matter we have reviewed OMB’s advice on this matter, which appears to conclude that the USAID funding for Ukraine is constitutionally available for obligation, and the Administration still has a legal obligation to provide funds to Ukraine. . . . [USAID] funding prudently and
fully, consistent with the Impoundment Control Act.”

Here, we have Defense Department officials directly raising concerns about the hold breaking the law, despite whatOMB said to GAO. Here is what they said:

This is one of the redacted emails. This is the draft letter I just referred to that had been prepared for the signature of the Deputy Secretary of Defense. It is addressed to Mr. Vought, the Acting Director over at OMB. The administration first released the emails in response to a Freedom of Information request—something the administration didn’t want to do but was required by law—they decided to black out this entire email, to redact it.

What we learned yesterday was that this blackout contained the sentences that I just read about the Department of Defense being very, very worried that continued withholding violated the law, violated the Impoundment Control Act. I can’t imagine how, in good faith, the Justice Department or whoever it was in the administration just blacked this out. I am told it was the Attorney General. That is abuse of power to deny that information to the American people and to the Congress, and this appears to be just the tip of the iceberg.

Ultimately, we know that the President’s hold on the Ukraine funds continued until September 12, and the Department of Defense was unable to deliver $35 million of that vital need aid to Ukraine before the funds expired at the end of the fiscal year. It was only because Congress later acted by a vote of both Houses of Congress to extend that funding that the Defense Department can now deliver this assistance.

This is why it is all the more important for the Senate to hear testimony from the witnesses under oath, under penalty of perjury, and to review the relevance for ourselves. Mr. Mulvany, Mr. Blair, and Mr. Duffy were all directly involved in carrying out President Trump’s order to withhold Ukraine assistance. Mr. Bolton, according to testimony of Dr. Fiona Hill, raised significant concerns about the hold.

So far as we just heard, the majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, has rejected these reasonable requests for witnesses and documents, despite the fact that we are clearly directly relevant to the impeachment trial. I think people have a very simple question: Why is the President and why is the majority leader so desperate, so scared to provide these documents and prevent these individuals from testifying under penalty of perjury in this case?

It has been deeply disappointing to hear the majority leader say that he is “not an impartial juror” and that he will work in lockstep with the President’s lawyers. He is asking the Senate to allow the defendant in this case, the President of the United States, to set the terms of his own trial. This is not just an affront to our constitutional duty, it defies justice and common sense.

Make no mistake that those who vote to block the Senate from considering additional evidence from witnesses and documents are going to be held to account in 2020 and in an upcoming presidential campaign. I would challenge my colleagues to tell me one case where, after you have a grand jury proceeding, the prosecution is not allowed to call witnesses at trial. That would be nuts. For the Senate to deliberately choose to close its eyes and shut its ears to evidence would be a miscarriage of justice and a violation of our constitutional obligations.

I heard the majority leader talk about how the Speaker of the House is holding up sending the Articles of Impeachment. Well, if the majority leader were to just agree to do what we allow in every other trial in the country, which is call relevant witnesses and get relevant documents, we could start this process. The refusal of the majority leader to agree to what an overwhelming majority of Americans consider common sense and plain justice that we are experiencing whatever delay we end up experiencing in this case.

The House has presented overwhelming evidence to support its two Articles of Impeachment: abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. The Senate trial is about hearing the case on both sides, including hearing from those who are directly involved before rendering a final verdict. President Trump has said many times he wants to call witnesses. He wants to have a full trial. If he has evidence to rebut the facts established by the House, the Senate needs to hear it, and we should render a final verdict after all the evidence is in and not before.

Some may have heard our Republican colleagues argue that we need to rush this so that the President can get back to legislative business. First, let’s remember that impeachment is our constitutional responsibility, and we can have a trial that is both speedy and fair.

Second, as we have seen in the House of Representatives, it is possible to conduct robust oversight and legislate at the same time. In fact, the week before the House of Representatives voted on impeachment, they passed a very important bill to reduce the costs of prescription drugs. In fact, the House has passed over 300 bills that Senator MCCONNELL has refused to bring up for a vote here in the Senate, including hundreds with bipartisan support.

The House has acted to expand background checks for gun purchases to reduce gun violence, passed legislation to get Big Money out of politics, to strengthen voting rights, to raise the minimum wage for the first time in more than a decade, to protect employment pensions, and to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. Senator MCCONNELL has not only blocked consideration of these critical measures, he has boasted about his obstruction, calling himself the “grim reaper.” So let’s not fall for the claim that the majority leader suddenly wants to get to work on these initiatives that are important to the American people. To date, he has made no commitment to take up any of those bills, whether or not there is an impeachment trial.

As the Senate discharges its constitutional duties, whether by conducting an impeachment trial or passing legislation, it should never be an instrument of a President, regardless of party. We should not be a rubberstamp. We should never outsource our judgment or our votes to any White House. We serve the American people and must render justice fairly and honorably at this critical time in our history.

Iran

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Speaking of critical moments, I do want to say a word about the rapidly escalating conflict with Iran.

General Soleimani was a violent man who died a violent death, but the question facing us is not whether the target of the attack was a good or bad man. The question is what will be the consequence of this action taken by the United States, and what is President Trump’s strategy for moving forward to advance U.S. national interests in the region and in the safety of Americans?

President Trump came into office saying he wanted to end America’s wars in the Middle East, but today, we are closer to war with Iran than ever before. The administration’s reckless policy over the last 3 years has brought us to this brink. Make no mistake, from day one, President Trump and his ideologues within his administration have escalated tensions with Iran without a strategy. They launched their deliberate, “maximum pressure campaign” without any realistic goals. Can anyone tell us today what President Trump’s endgame is with respect to Iran?

Everything we have seen over the last 3 years has demonstrated that this President is not capable of thinking beyond the first move in a chess game and has been surrounded by ideological sycophants, not regional or national security experts. They are people who are here to please his whims and have no capacity for the conflict escalation management that will now be required more than ever to avoid an all-out war with Iran. It is a war that would harm our country in ways we cannot imagine strategically, economically, and morally.

The stated goal of the action taken was to “protect American lives,” but Americans throughout the region are at greater risk today than they were yesterday. That is why our embassy in Iraq advised Americans to leave quickly yesterday. That is why our embassy in Baghdad, but elsewhere
in the area and, in fact, around the world. American troops have become even bigger targets. What about the American humanitarian organizations and their personnel abroad, American students, and American tourists? They are all at greater risk as a result of the actions of the administration.

Secretary Pompeo’s call today for de-escalation after the assassination is a pipe dream. What we do know—and no one should be surprised—is that Iran has full control of the assassination. The general is tantamount to a declaration of war and they will strike back at a place and time of their choosing. We know with certainty that a response will come and that Iran and its allies have the ability to act against Americans and American interests across the region.

Moreover, the assassination will like-ly lead to a decline in American influ-ence in Iraq and, as a result, even greater Iranian power and influence in that country. The Iraqi Govern-ment, has already stated that the attack on its soil violated its sov-ereignty. Prime Minister Mahdi called for an extraordinary session of the Iraqi Parliament to safeguard Iraq’s sovereignty, calling the strike a dan-gerous escalation that will light the fuse of a destructive war in Iraq, the region, and the world.”

Iraq’s President, Barham Salih, also condemned the strikes. Here is the Reuters’ piece: “Iraqi president con-demns U.S. strike, urges restraint.”

These are our allies in the Iraqi Gov-ernment who are condemning these ac-tions and saying that they will lead to a spiral toward war, and these state-ments came just days after the Iraqi Prime Minister and the President had made similar warnings about prior American actions in Iraq. This is al-ready intensifying calls within Iraq to expel U.S. forces. Who do we think is going to fill the vacuum there? Iran. It already has enormous influence in Iraq, and now we are going to be giving it even more.

This administration, like the Bush administration, has never understood basic political geography. Iran is a large Shia country that borders Iraq. Iraq is also a majority Shia country. Ever since the United States invaded Iraq in 2003 and removed Saddam Hus-sein, Iran’s influence in Iraq has stead-ily grown. This situation may appear gratifying in the short term, for, as I said, he was a bad person who had a lot of blood on his hands, but it has likely ushered in the most volatile mo-ment in the Middle East in a very, very long time.

The same group of warmongering, po- litical ideologues who told Americans that the Iraq war would lead to democ- racy’s breaking out in the Middle East is telling us today that the Iranians will be celebrating in the streets. The truth is that this action will likely usher in the most militant Parliament in Iran that we will have seen in deca-des. The door will be closed com- pletely on the hard-won moment for trying to derail Iranian nuclear ambi-tions through negotiations.

In closing, this is a pivotal and dan-gerous moment for America as the re-sult of reckless policies over the last 3 years. The President’s action may be-come the “general election” after an- other war in the Middle East. Let us here in Congress make very clear that President Trump has no authority to take America to war against Iran. Our Constitution requires that Congress authorize any decision to go to war, and Congress has not given that au-thorization.

In the days and weeks ahead, I hope all of us will do our duty as Senators to look at the situation we find ourselves in at this moment, and I hope we will resolve to do what President Trump said he wanted to do while he was cam-paigning for President, which is to not plunge us into more wars in the Middle East but to find a way to use our influ-ence and our power responsibly to sta-bilize the situation there.

I yield the floor.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate pro-cedings.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, an-nounced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5377. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the limitation on deduction of State and local taxes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 5430. An act to implement the Agree-ment between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada at-tached as an Annex to the Protocol Replac-ing the North American Free Trade Agree-ment; referred jointly to the Committee on Finance; Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-sions; Environment and Public Works; App-ropriations; Foreign Relations; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; the Budget pur-suant to section 151(e)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 318. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to list fentanyl-related sub-stances as schedule I controlled substances.

H.R. 5377. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the limi-tation on deduction of State and local taxes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 5430. An act to implement the Agree-ment between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada at-tached as an Annex to the Protocol Replac-ing the North American Free Trade Agree-ment; referred jointly to the Committee on Finance; Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-sions; Environment and Public Works; App-ropriations; Foreign Relations; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; the Budget pur-suant to section 151(e)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the sec-ond time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 318. A bill to amend the Controlled Sub-stances Act to list fentanyl-related sub-stances as schedule I controlled substances.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Raskin) has signed the fol-low ing enrolled bills:

H.R. 5377. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the limita-tion on deduction of State and local taxes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 5430. An act to implement the Agree-ment between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada at-tached as an Annex to the Protocol Replac-ing the North American Free Trade Agree-ment; referred jointly to the Committee on Finance; Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-sions; Environment and Public Works; App-ropriations; Foreign Relations; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; the Budget pur-suant to section 151(e)(2) of the Trade Act of 1974.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolu-tions were introduced, read the first
and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KAIN (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S.J. Res. 63. A joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 933

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 933, a bill to improve data collection and monitoring of the Great Lakes, oceans, bays, estuaries, and coasts, and for other purposes.

S. 2794

At the request of Mr. CRAP, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2794, a bill to provide for the creation of the Missing Armed Forces Personnel Records Collection at the National Archives, to require the expedited public transmission to the Archivist and public disclosure of Missing Armed Forces Personnel records, and for other purposes.

S. 3368

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3368, a bill to clarify the boundary of the Rocky Mountain National Park, and for other purposes.

S. 3369

At the request of Mr. GARDNER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3369, a bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to confer a land ownership interest within the boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park, and for other purposes.

S. 3104

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3104, a bill to make technical corrections relating to parental leave for Federal employees.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 1:18 p.m., adjourned until Monday, January 6, 2020, at 3 p.m.

NOMINATIONS RETURNED TO THE PRESIDENT

FRIEY, JANUARY 3, 2020

The following nominations transmitted by the President to the Senate during the first session of the 116th Congress, and upon which no action was had at the time the Senate adjourned, modify the Senate needs of confirmation under the provisions of Rule XXXI, paragraph 6, of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RICK A. DEARBORN, of Oklahoma, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

JOSEPH J. GRUTEROS, of Florida, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

LEON A. WESTMORELAND, of Georgia, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

THOBEZ RICKTIA, of Indiana, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for the remainder of the term expiring January 3, 2021.

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MICHAEL F. ACK, of Maryland, to be Chief Executive Officer of the BBG and President of the BBG Board of Governors for the term of five years.


ANN M. BURKE, of New York, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for the term of five years.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

HEATHER REYNOLDS, of Texas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2021.

HEATHER REYNOLDS, of Texas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring June 30, 2021.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

VICTORIA A. HUGHES, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring May 31, 2022.

LEXIS HOFSTETTER, of Colorado, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring June 30, 2022.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

LISA VICKERS, of Texas, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring January 30, 2024.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NAOMI C. EARL, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture, to be reappointed, for a term of five years.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

WILLIAM BRYAN, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security, for a term of five years.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SHANNON LEE GOROSLE, of Florida, to be Director of the Office of Violence Against Women, Department of Justice, for a term of five years.

VINCENT F. DEMARCO, of New York, to be Director of the Office of Violence Against Women, Department of Justice, for a term of five years.

OWEN MCCORD CYPHER, of Michigan, to be Director of the Office of Violence Against Women, Department of Justice, for a term of five years.

THOMAS L. LEONARD III, of Michigan, to be Director of the Office of Violence Against Women, Department of Justice, for a term of five years.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

PAMELA BAYLEY, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, for a term of five years.

LISA BOYD, of Missouri, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Moldova, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, for a term of five years.

STEPHANIE DAVIES, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Uzbekistan, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, for a term of five years.

MARK K. WALTER, of California, to be Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for the Acquisition Policy Directorate, Department of Defense, for a term of five years.

WILLIAM RYAN DURKEE, of New York, to be Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State, for a term of five years.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JANET T. YANG, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service, for a term expiring July 1, 2024.

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

ROBIN B. ROBERTS, of California, to be a Member of the Farm Credit Administration Board, Farm Credit Administration, for a term expiring October 1, 2020.

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

JAMES E. TRAVERS III, of Texas, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2021.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

JAMES P. DANLY, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2021.

FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY

CATHERINE BIRD, of Texas, to be a General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, for a term of five years.

FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICES

RICHARD GIAUQUE, of Virginia, to be a Mediator and Conciliator, Department of Labor, for a term of five years.

HARRY S. TRUMAN SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

STEPHEN R. BOUGH, of Missouri, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation, for a term expiring December 31, 2021.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

MARC ROSEN, of Connecticut, to be a United States Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund for a term expiring December 31, 2021.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

ALAN K. BERNSTEIN, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority for a term expiring June 30, 2022.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

ROBERT J. EOK, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities for a term expiring January 31, 2022.
PEACE CORPS
ALAN R. SWENSON, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE PEACE CORPS.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
DAVID CHRISTIAN TRAYNOR, OF OHIO, TO BE CHIEF COUNSEL FOR ADVOCACY, SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
DAVID FABIAN BLACK, OF NORTH DAKOTA, TO BE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2019, ANDREW S. MILLER, OF NEW YORK, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2023.

THE JUDICIARY
STANLEY BLUMENFELD, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.
JEREMY S. ROSEN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.
MARK C. SCARS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.
KEVIN RAY SWEAVER, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO.
DANIEL J. EPSTEIN, OF TEXAS, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.
HALI SULEYMAN OZERDEN, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT.
SCOTT J. LAUREL, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.
COWT T. WILSON, OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI.
FERNANDO A. ARELLANO-ROCHA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.
ADAM L. BRAVERMAN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.
SANDY NUNES LEAL, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.
K. SHELBY MATTHEWS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.
RICK LLOYD RICHMOND, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.
STEVEN AIDEN SCHWARTZ, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.
STEPHEN A. VADEN, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.
KATHERINE C. DAVIS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.
EDWARD BULRY MEYERS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.
ANDREW LYNN BRASHER, OF ALABAMA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT.
JOHN M. HOLCOMB, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.
KENNUT SWENSON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.
STEVE KIM, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.
JOSHUA M. KINSELY, OF ALASKA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ALASKA.
MICHELE M. PETTITT, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.
TODD WALLACE ROBINSON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.
JENNIFER P. TOGGIATTI, OF NEVADA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA.
JOHN PETER CRONAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.
WILLIAM SCOTT HARDY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.
JOHN F. HILLI, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN, EASTERN AND WESTERN DISTRICTS OF OKLAHOMA.
DAVID CLEVELAND JOSEPH, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA.
JASON L. WANG, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.
MATTHEW THOMAS SCHHELP, OF MISSOURI, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI.

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
DARRELL R. ESSA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
ALMA L. GOLDEN, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.
JENNY A. MOORE, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION
ALMO J. CARTER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS.

UNITED STATES TAX COURT
MARK VAN DYKE HOLMBA, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

IN THE ARMY
ARMY NOMINATION OF LT. GEN. TIMOTHY J. KADAVY, TO BE DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF, TO BE LIEUTENANT GENERAL.
ARMY NOMINATION OF BRIG. GEN. DAVID M. HAMILTON, TO BE MAJOR GENERAL.
ARMY NOMINATION OF COL. JERI J. SCHARETL, TO BE BRIGADIER GENERAL.

IN THE COAST GUARD
COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JENNY A. MCGEE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON OCTOBER 15, 2019.

FOREIGN SERVICE
FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH J. B. L. JENKINS AND ENDING WITH ROBERT J. HAYES, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 19, 2019.

IN THE NAVY
NAVY NOMINATION OF R. K. LOVELL, TO BE CAPTAIN.
NAVY NOMINATION OF ELISHA S. BURR, TO BE CAPTAIN.
NAVY NOMINATION OF STEPHEN R. BURBANK, TO BE COMMISSIONER.
NAVY NOMINATION OF R. K. RIVERS, TO BE CAPTAIN.
NAVY NOMINATION OF JOHN R. SCHRADER, TO BE CAPTAIN.
NAVY NOMINATION OF ROBERT L. RUTHERFORD, TO BE CAPTAIN.
NAVY NOMINATION OF STEPHEN J. MILLER, TO BE CAPTAIN.
NAVY NOMINATION OF ERIC T. MITCHELL, TO BE CAPTAIN.
NAVY NOMINATION OF DAVID S. BROWN, TO BE CAPTAIN.
NAVY NOMINATION OF R. R. ALLISON, TO BE CAPTAIN.
HIGHLIGHTS

Second Session of the One Hundred and Sixteenth Congress convened as prescribed by the Constitution of the United States.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1–S10

Measures Introduced: One resolution was introduced, as follows: S.J. Res. 63.

Pages S8–9

Senator Isakson Letter of Resignation—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the resignation letter of former Senator Johnny Isakson be read and spread upon the Journal and printed in the Record.

Pages S3–4

Carranza Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Jovita Carranza, of Illinois, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, and pursuant to the unanimous-consent agreement of Friday, January 3, 2020, a vote on cloture will occur at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, January 6, 2020.

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, January 6, 2020, Senate resume consideration of the nomination; and that the motion to invoke cloture filed during the session of Friday, January 3, 2020, ripen at 5:30 p.m.

Pages S3

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Andrew Lynn Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Joshua M. Kindred, of Alaska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska.

Matthew Thomas Schelp, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

Stephen A. Vaden, of Tennessee, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

Pages S9

Nominations Returned to the President: The following nominations were returned to the President failing of confirmation under Senate Rule XXXI at the time of the sine die adjournment of the First Session of the 116th Congress:

Geoffrey William Seiji Okamoto, of California, to be Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury.

Naomi C. Earp, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

Scott Hutchins, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.

Lisa Vickers, of Texas, to be a Member of the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board for a term expiring October 18, 2021.

Thelma Drake, of Virginia, to be Federal Transit Administrator.


Ann Marie Buerkle, of New York, to be Chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Alan E. Cobb, of Kansas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority for a term expiring November 22, 2023.

Rick A. Dearborn, of Oklahoma, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

Diana Furchtgott-Roth, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.
Joseph Ryan Gruters, of Florida, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

Don Munce, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2024.

Leon A. Westmoreland, of Georgia, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

William Shaw McDermott, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority for a term expiring May 30, 2024.

David Fabian Black, of North Dakota, to be Deputy Commissioner of Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2019.

Andrew M. Saul, of New York, to be Commissioner of Social Security for the term expiring January 19, 2019.

Pamela Bates, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, with the rank of Ambassador.

Marshall Billingslea, of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of State (Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights).

Brett P. Giroir, of Texas, to be Representative of the United States on the Executive Board of the World Health Organization.

Darrell E. Issa, of California, to be Director of the Trade and Development Agency.

Ronald Mortensen, of Utah, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Population, Refugees, and Migration).

Michael Pack, of Maryland, to be Chief Executive Officer of the Broadcasting Board of Governors for the term of three years.

Leandro Rizzuto, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to Barbados, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

Mark Rosen, of Connecticut, to be United States Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund for a term of two years.

Alan R. Swendiman, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Director of the Peace Corps.

Christine J. Toretti, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Malta.

Victoria Ann Hughes, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring October 6, 2021.

Heather Reynolds, of Texas, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring September 14, 2021.

William Bryan, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security.

Shannon Lee Goessling, of Florida, to be Director of the Violence Against Women Office, Department of Justice.

James E. Trainor III, of Texas, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2023.

David Christian Tryon, of Ohio, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration.

Mark Van Dyke Holmes, of New York, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

Stanley Blumenfeld, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Jeremy B. Rosen, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Mark C. Scarsi, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Rodney K. Brown, of California, to be a Member of the Farm Credit Administration Board, Farm Credit Administration, for a term expiring October 13, 2024.

John Linder, of Georgia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador.

Alma L. Golden, of Texas, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Catherine Bird, of Texas, to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a term of five years.

Richard Giacolone, of Virginia, to be Federal Mediation and Conciliation Director.

Vincent F. DeMarco, of New York, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of New York for the term of four years.

Theodore Rokita, of Indiana, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for the remainder of the term expiring January 3, 2021.

Stephen R. Bough, of Missouri, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Harry S Truman Scholarship Foundation for a term expiring December 10, 2021.

Kenneth Charles Canterbury, Jr., of South Carolina, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.
Kevin Ray Sweazea, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico.

Daniel Z. Epstein, of Texas, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Halil Suleyman Ozerden, of Mississippi, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

Keith E. Sonderling, of Florida, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2024.

Owen McCurdy Cypher, of Michigan, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Michigan for the term of four years.

Thomas L. Leonard III, of Michigan, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Michigan for the term of four years.

Robert Joseph Kruckemeyer, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2022.

Scott J. Laurer, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims for the term of fifteen years.

James P. Danly, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2023.

Katharine MacGregor, of Pennsylvania, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

William Ellison Grayson, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Estonia.

Leora Rosenberg Levy, of Connecticut, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Chile.

Barbera Hale Thornhill, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Singapore.

Cory T. Wilson, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi.

Jenny A. McGee, of Texas, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Fernando L. Aenlle-Rocha, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Adam L. Braverman, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.


Sandy Nunes Leal, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

R. Shireen Matthews, of California, to be a United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Rick Lloyd Richmond, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Stephen Sidney Schwartz, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Stephen A. Vaden, of Tennessee, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

Grace Karaffa Obermann, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Kathryn C. Davis, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Edward Hulvey Meyers, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Andrew Lynn Brasher, of Alabama, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

John W. Holcomb, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Knut Sveinbjorn Johnson, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Steve Kim, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Joshua M. Kindred, of Alaska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska.

Michelle M. Pettit, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Todd Wallace Robinson, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Jennifer P. Togliatti, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

John Peter Cronan, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

William Scott Hardy, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

John F. Heil III, of Oklahoma, to be United States District Judge for the Northern, Eastern and Western Districts of Oklahoma.

David Cleveland Joseph, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana.

Iris Lan, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Matthew Thomas Schelp, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

Finch Fulton, of Alabama, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.
3 Army nominations in the rank of general.
14 Coast Guard nominations in the rank of admiral.
3 Marine Corps nominations in the rank of general.
1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.
Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Foreign Service, and Navy.

Messages from the House:
Measures Referred:
Measures Placed on the Calendar:

Enrolled Bills Presented:
Additional Cosponsors:
Adjournment: Senate convened at 12 noon and adjourned at 1:18 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, January 6, 2020. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S4.)

Committee Meetings
(Committees not listed did not meet)
No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action
Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: There were no Public Bills or Resolutions introduced in today's Record.
Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.
Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Raskin to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Convening of the Second Session of the 116th Congress: Pursuant to the 20th Amendment to the Constitution, the House met at 12 noon on January 3, 2020 for the convening of the second session of the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress. Pursuant to section 8(a) of H. Res. 758, the Chair announced that no organizational or legislative business will be conducted on this day. The Chair further announced that messages requiring action will be laid before the House on a subsequent day and that bills and resolutions introduced today will receive a number but will not be referred to committee or noted in the Record until a subsequent day. Executive communications, memorials, and petitions likewise will be referred and numbered on a subsequent day.

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no Yea and Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and at 12:02 p.m. the House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, January 7, 2020, pursuant to section 8(c) of H. Res. 758.

Committee Meetings
No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings
No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS
(For last listing of Public Laws, see Daily Digest, p. D1413)
S. 1790, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year. Signed on December 20, 2019. (Public Law 116–92)


COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2020

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate
No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House
No hearings are scheduled.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
3 p.m., Monday, January 6

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Jovita Carranza, of Illinois, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 5:30 p.m.

At 5 p.m., Senate expects Senator-designate Kelly Loeffler, of Georgia, to be sworn-in as Senator.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2 p.m., Tuesday, January 7

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Establishing a quorum in the House of Representatives for the Second Session of the 116th Congress.