

SANDERS is trying to bring to the floor, and I would vote for both if we were given the opportunity.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I know Senator TOOMEY is delayed coming to the floor, and on his behalf, I will object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

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#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

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#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

WILLIAM M. (MAC) THORNBERRY  
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021—VETO—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the veto message on H.R. 6395, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Veto message, a bill (H.R. 6395) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2021 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, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, these are the last few words that Senator REED and I will say before the vote, and I want to mention something that I haven't talked about as much as I probably should have.

First of all, the cooperation and working with Senator REED and his staff—this is a long enduring thing. It is hard for people to believe, but we are actually starting on next year's bill now. We have already started.

I thought I would mention something that hasn't been talked about as much as it should have been talked about since we have suffered arguably the worst cyber attack in American history. This is the most significant piece of cyber legislation in American history. It contains 27 of our Cyberspace Solarium Commission recommendations. All 27 are in this NDAA, to include provisions that are directly relevant to the SolarWinds attack that would have allowed us to get ahead of this—most notably by allowing decisive cyber security measures in DHS to begin hunting for threats on dot-gov networks.

We have other recommendations to enhance our cyber resilience for our nuclear command and control systems in this NDAA. Establishing a national cyber director is in the NDAA, strengthening the size and elevating

his leadership, giving him more resources. I fear that the SolarWinds attack is a harbinger of things to come. I am very proud of the work our Commission has done, and the provisions are absolutely critical.

The final thing I would say is that this is arguably the most serious piece of legislation when it comes to deterring China that we have had in decades, if not ever, including provisions such as the Pacific Deterrence Initiative. This is kind of a followup to last year's European Deterrence Initiative, where we are concentrating more on Russia, but this is specific to China.

That is what the whole division of this bill is about—to enhance our presence and our deterrence posture in the INDOPACOM provisions for protecting against Chinese industrial espionage, more transparency for Chinese military companies, reporting on Chinese United Front Work Department in the United States and abroad, and the list goes on and on. It is a very serious piece of legislation when it comes to deterring China. That is one of the things we are concerned about. China is our No. 1 threat and will be for perhaps, regrettably, decades to come. So this bill brings us along to where we should be.

Once again, I want to say thanks for the effort that has gone into this bill, the weekends, the hard work. LIZ CHENEY and John Bonsell, I have to say, along with JACK REED—they probably worked more weekends than they have not worked weekends. So it has been a real effort.

It is the most important and significant piece of legislation that we will pass, and this next vote is a very critical vote.

I will yield to Senator REED for any comments he would like to make about this. Keep in mind that this is a real—people talk about how the Democrats and Republicans don't do things together. This has been an example of what can happen in government.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, let me first begin by commending the chairman for his extraordinary efforts. He led this process, let there be no mistake about it. He rose to the challenges. This is the most challenging NDAA for so many different reasons—because of the pandemic, the need for social distancing in terms of hearings, the whole scope of challenges that have arisen in the past few months—and the chairman has done a remarkable job.

Let me start by saying that this is essential for our national security. This bill is not optional. If we want to continue to maintain our security for the United States, we have to pass this legislation. It is that simple.

What does it do? Well, it does things that we have to do every year. One, it provides for the support of our service men and women. I know we are all celebrating New Year's Day here. It is kind of disconcerting to be working

when everyone else is partying, but if you feel a little bit put upon, think about the soldiers in forward operating bases in Afghanistan who are facing danger. Think about the ballistic submariners protecting the United States. Think about the airmen who flew the B-52 bombers. Think about them and their families, and I think you will appreciate more what they do every day and what we do once in a while.

One of the issues that the chairman spoke about is how cyber security is essential. We based our efforts on an insightful report by the Cyber Solarium Commission, headed by Senator ANGUS KING and Congressman MIKE GALLAGHER.

Every day, we are learning more about the Russian penetration of our whole national security apparatus and civilian companies. Just today, Microsoft announced that they have been deeply penetrated by the Russian intrusion, and I suspect it is very serious.

This legislation was done, remarkably, before we knew of such an intrusion and responds specifically to this type of cyber breach on the United States. It gives the Department of Homeland Security the authority to audit other agencies in terms of their cyber security and take other steps to hunt for threats. It is just the first step, but if we don't take this step, we will be further behind.

Now, the other thing I want to point out, too, is echoing what the chairman said about the Pacific Deterrence Initiative. We have identified \$2 billion that can be used—and we will focus upon how it is used—to create a new strategy. This is really the first time that we have stepped back and said: Let's set up a strategic posture that recognizes the true threats that China is now presenting to us in the Pacific. This is the first time we have done this.

What it does is it builds on our close relationships with key allies—Australia, Japan, South Korea. It does that by a series of steps—first, through command post exercises where we test our communications; second, real exercises. With these steps, we are building to a point where large-scale joint exercises involving not only our key allies but other partners become possible. That will set us up for the ability to deter China. When they see all of the nations of the Pacific that have worked with us closely and that are prepared to work with us, that will be a great deterrence. That is the goal of this effort. So any suggestion that China is happy about this bill is completely baseless.

Then finally, again, like the chairman, I must thank the staff, John Bonsell and Elizabeth King and the staff and all the Members. Again, my congratulations to the chairman for his great work.

I urge passage. Again, I think this is essential. As I said before, there are thousands of soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coastguardsmen who are