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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 11 a.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2025

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God of constant newness, in You all renewal abides and all hope originates. Help us to honor You with both our words and deeds. Give us the courage to help carve tunnels of hope through mountains of despair. Lord, make us unafraid to confront prejudice and pride as You attune our spirits to Your truth and light.

Bless our Senators. Energize them until their presence radiates a light that no darkness can overcome. Give them wisdom and courage, vision and discipline for the right living of these days. Lord, empower them to be kind to one another, forgiving and affirming each other.

We pray in Your righteous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Scott Bessent, of South Carolina, to be Secretary of the Treasury.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today marks the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi concentration and extermination camp at Auschwitz-Birkenau. We commemorate this day through International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Today, we remember the 6 million Jewish victims as well as millions of other victims persecuted by the Nazis, and we do this so that it is never repeated. I honor the victims, the survivors, and their families by combating anti-Semitism and preserving history for future generations.

In 2023, the Simon Wiesenthal Center approached me about wrongdoing by the Swiss bank named Credit Suisse in its internal investigations into undis-

closed information relating to the bank's Nazi ties.

For decades, we have tried to track the Nazi confiscation of all kinds of Jewish valuables and cash, and we all know that the Nazis used Swiss banks to hide whatever was confiscated.

I went to Senator WHITEHOUSE, chairman of the Budget Committee. He and I issued the Budget Committee's first subpoena since 1991 to obtain a report that was developed by the investigation's independent ombudsman, Mr. Neil Barofsky. The report confirmed allegations and shed light on the breadth of Credit Suisse's servicing of Nazi wealth during and after World War II, along with their efforts to keep that wealth hidden.

So it is very clear Credit Suisse's past leadership handled this matter terribly. They lied to Congress while smearing the reputation of the Simon Wiesenthal Center and also the reputation of Mr. Barofsky. The bank even fired Mr. Barofsky, which is why we had to subpoena his report.

Since then, Credit Suisse as a bank collapsed and was merged, and Mr. Barofsky has been rehired after our pressure. Now, the bank UBS owns the results of this inquiry, and it also owns Credit Suisse's past of mishandling this whole event.

Earlier this month, Senator WHITEHOUSE and I released updates from this investigation. Shortly after, there were negative press leaks about UBS and possibly past disgruntled employees. The leaks contained lies about the work and attacked Mr. Barofsky's

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



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S383

character. These attacks serve no purpose other than to frustrate an investigation into Credit Suisse's Nazi past. That absurd conduct is, in fact, a spit in the face to the victims of the Holocaust.

The U.S. Congress won't tolerate and shouldn't tolerate that kind of evil here in the 21st century, and neither will those brave souls long past that lived through the Nazi evil. They stand guard as our spiritual strength.

So let this be a message to the bank obstructionists: This Senator, as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, will leave no stone unturned when it comes to Nazi evils—and neither will Senator WHITEHOUSE.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATION OF SCOTT BESSENT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, later today, we will hold a vote on the nomination of Scott Bessent to be Treasury Secretary. An example of the American dream in action, Mr. Bessent rose from challenging economic circumstances to a career in the world of finance, and he brings a wealth of private sector experience in the economy and markets to his new role, as well as a concern for the needs of working Americans.

During President Trump's first administration, we passed major tax relief legislation. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act reformed our Nation's outdated Tax Code, lowered tax rates across the board, nearly doubled the standard deduction, doubled the child tax credit, and enacted pro-growth policies for American businesses of all sizes. As a result, the economy took off, and our Nation became more competitive. Household incomes increased, and the employment rate hit its lowest level in 50 years.

Now, however, a lot of that tax relief is close to expiring, and without action, American families and businesses will face a staggering \$4 trillion tax hike next year. At the top of the Republican agenda is extending that tax relief to help our economy and the American people thrive. I deeply appreciate the fact that Mr. Bessent shares that commitment, and I am looking forward to working with him on extending the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

I am also looking forward to working with him to help ensure that American businesses large and small remain competitive in the global economy. Over the last 4 years, we have witnessed the Biden administration embrace the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and negotiate with nations around the world on a Pillar 2 global minimum tax regime—all, I might add, without consulting Congress and, I would argue, without fully appreciating the damage to the United States' own tax base and our ability to set tax policy for U.S. multinational firms.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act helped create an environment where American

businesses could thrive on the global stage, and I am committed to working with Mr. Bessent and the Trump administration to continue to protect American businesses and ensure that we do not enter into agreements that put U.S. businesses at a disadvantage next to their foreign counterparts.

NOMINATION OF SEAN DUFFY

Mr. President, this afternoon, we will also be voting to invoke cloture on the nomination of Sean Duffy to be Secretary of Transportation. Mr. Duffy brings valuable experience that will help him in managing our Nation's sprawling transportation system, and he has some important work ahead of him.

In recent years, there have been a number of challenges in the transportation sector. We have seen serious safety concerns affect air travel. Issues at our ports have led to supply chain challenges. A pilot shortage has resulted in reduced air service in parts of the country. All the while, the Biden administration seemed to be focused on forcing Americans into electric vehicles and forcing progressive ideology into transportation policy.

The American people expect to have a safe and efficient transportation system, and that is the top priority of the Transportation Department, and it is what Sean Duffy is focused on.

As a five-term Congressman and a co-chair of the Great Lakes Task Force, Mr. Duffy worked with Republicans and Democrats in the House and the Senate on a number of infrastructure projects, including the replacement of a decades-old, structurally deficient bridge connecting Wisconsin and Minnesota and upgrading the Soo Locks.

Our colleague Senator BALDWIN has called Mr. Duffy "the right person for this job," and he earned a unanimous, bipartisan vote out of the Commerce Committee last week.

As Mr. Duffy mentioned during his confirmation hearing, he and his wife Rachel have nine children, and I am not the first to observe that the logistics of moving the Duffy clan is by itself preparation for this job. But more seriously, as a father and a parent of new drivers, transportation safety is personal to Mr. Duffy. As a resident of a rural State myself, I appreciate that, coming from rural Wisconsin, he knows that infrastructure needs in rural parts of the country are just as important as those anywhere else.

Sean Duffy will bring valuable experience and knowledge to the Transportation Department, and he has a proven track record of working with Republicans and Democrats to deliver good infrastructure for the people we all serve. I look forward to working with him in this new role, and I look forward to confirming both Mr. Bessent and Mr. Duffy in the very near future.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NOMINATION OF SCOTT BESSENT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, as the leader has just said, I come to the floor for the same purpose: to talk about my vote in favor of Mr. Bessent to be Secretary of the Treasury.

This Cabinet position is one of the most important positions in any administration. The Secretary is the tip of the spear for a President's domestic economic agenda. Moreover, the Secretary is a very key player in international affairs, with responsibilities covering international trade, global finance, and foreign sanctions—and that is just to name a few.

Given the current challenges we face as a nation, the next Treasury Secretary will have a full load on their plate.

The United States is facing what former Clinton Treasury Secretary Larry Summers recently called "the biggest fiscal sustainability problem since the Civil War."

At the same time, the expansionist ambitions of Russia in Europe and China—particularly China's pursuit of economic hegemony—threaten the international economic order.

Having met with Mr. Bessent, I am confident he is up to the task. He has in-depth knowledge of economic history. In fact, he taught a class on the subject at Yale University. That and his decades-long career in finance make him uniquely qualified to be our next Secretary of the Treasury.

He is acutely aware of the risks posed to our national economy by our \$36 trillion national debt. He understands that digging ourselves out of our fiscal hole will require spending restraint and, coupled with that, great economic growth.

As he discussed in testimony before the Senate committee, avoiding the largest tax hike in the history of our country by extending the 2017 tax law is crucial to the health of the American economy. And we all know in this body that the biggest tax increase in the history of the country can happen to the middle class even without a vote of Congress because the 2017 tax bill sunsets at the end of this year.

Mr. Bessent also understands that international trade and access to foreign markets are vital to the economic success of the American farmer. And when I spoke with this nominee in my office, I was pleasantly surprised by his knowledge of agriculture, stemming from his ownership of farmland in North Dakota.

As with all nominees, I stressed to Mr. Bessent the importance of responding to Congressional letters. Congress has a constitutional duty to perform oversight of the executive branch. I intend to hold him to his commitment to

respond to all congressional inquiries in a timely and responsive manner.

I also told him that every nominee that comes before any committee is asked that same question: Will you respond to our letters? And I say, kind of tongue-in-cheek but with some truth to it, that you ought to say “maybe”—because I showed Pam Bondi, our nominee for Attorney General, when she was in my office, a whole file of 158 letters in the last 4 years that I sent to the Department of Justice that have remained unanswered or not fully answered, and all that.

So I hope that we can get this Trump Cabinet to keep their word that they are going to answer our letters, because they need to focus it from the standpoint of the Constitution. You learn in eighth grade civics that we not only pass laws here and appropriate money, but under checks and balances, we have the responsibility to make sure that the executive branch faithfully executes that law or spends that money appropriately.

And so checking up on that requires a lot of communication between us in the Congress and the executive branch, and that is true whether it is a Republican or Democrat President. But I hope this administration is committed to fully cooperating with Congress on our oversight responsibilities.

Now, there is another item I always stress with Treasury nominees, and that is the importance of the IRS Whistleblower Program that I authored critical updates to in 2006. To date, this program has brought in over \$6 billion to the Treasury, thanks to whistleblowers who often risk their careers to blow the whistle on tax cheats.

This legislation is meant to make sure that the IRS has total information on who is paying their taxes and who isn't. So if you are working with some corporation that is not paying their taxes and you can report that successfully—the collection of those taxes—to the IRS, that whistleblower can get a share of the return.

And so far since 2006, \$6 billion—billion dollars—has come back into the Federal Treasury as a result of that program.

However, in regard to that program, for much of the program's history, there has been an embedded culture in Treasury and the IRS that has hampered the success of the program. So I will look forward to working with Mr. Bessent to turn that culture around so that the 2006 legislation will be much more productive in not having the Federal Government cheated out of taxes that people owe.

So based on my discussions with Mr. Bessent, there is no doubt in my mind that he is well qualified to be Treasury Secretary. So I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of his nomination later today.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

(Mr. ROUNDS assumed the Chair.)

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUDD). Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. DURBIN pertaining to the introduction of S. 261 are printed in today's RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

CABINET NOMINATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on a totally unrelated subject, this week two Senate committees will hold confirmation hearings for Robert Kennedy, Jr., President Trump's nominee to be Secretary for Health and Human Services.

Every day, HHS, this major government Agency, makes life-and-death decisions. That Agency oversees the Food and Drug Administration to make sure that what we eat is safe, to make sure the drugs that are sold to us are effective and safe as well.

The National Institutes of Health is in this Agency. It is the premiere medical research agency in the world—in the world. Some \$40 billion spent each year to find cures, to find new drugs, to move us toward a better America.

And the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention, their job is not as flashy as some, but it is so important. What they do is to make sure whatever is going around, as they say, doesn't hit our families. We count on them every single day.

It is a big job that requires responsible leadership and honesty overseeing an Agency that has these critical Agencies of government.

Now there may be some certain areas where we agree, such as curbing drug ads or improving the quality of the food supply. And I know Robert Kennedy, Jr., and I have worked with him in the past. I can work with him on those issues.

But on the fundamentals, the basic question of his leadership is troublesome. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., is dangerously—dangerously—unqualified and entirely irresponsible in his judgment. He embraces quack science and cherry-picks information to fulfill his numerous conspiracy theories. His decades-long crusade to spread lies about vaccines is just one example. Let me show you a chart that is pretty explicit, pretty short.

Robert Kennedy, Jr.:

There's no vaccine that is safe and effective.

This man who wants to head the Agency which develops vaccines and monitors their use said there is not a single vaccine that is safe and effective. He has stated that as recently as July of 2023.

Contrary to scientific fact, he has also said that:

I do believe that autism does come from vaccines.

I have heard this theory, and I think about it so many times when I think of

my friends and families who are raising children with autism. What a responsibility. What an effort they have to put into it to give these young children a chance. And to have this quack theory out there that this has something—their child's condition have something to do with vaccines is cruel.

And an outlandish conspiracy manifesto which he has helped to publish and wrote the forward for entitled “Cause Unknown”—here is the book—attempted to link COVID-19 vaccination with deaths in young kids.

Let me put this up here. It is a picture of the cover of this book. “Forward written by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.,” who is up for approval as part of the Trump Cabinet, head of HHS.

The book's cover has a picture of a young man whose name is Braden Fahey. The only problem this book, which is called “Cause Unknown: The Epidemic of Sudden Deaths” and talks about COVID vaccine—Braden never received a COVID vaccine. This poor little boy died at football practice due to a malformed blood vessel on his brain, and the book included his photo without the knowledge or consent of his parents. The height of irresponsibility.

Mr. Kennedy pushes facts aside when he wants to tell us about his agenda. The Hippocratic Oath for doctors states: “First, do no harm.” But I am fearful, if we put Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., in charge of our Nation's health, innocent children will die.

It is no secret what he would do. Mr. Kennedy himself petitioned the FDA to rescind authorization of all COVID vaccines in 2021, and a key associate of his has petitioned to remove the polio vaccine.

I look over here to the pages we have in the Senate. I think of my own experience, when I was 4 or 5 years younger than them. It was in the 1950s. We knew polio because we saw kids in our classrooms who were here today and in the hospital tomorrow. They contracted polio. It could be deadly. It could be crippling. It could affect you for the rest of your life.

We knew this thing called an iron lung that looked like a big vat—a big white vat—and the head sticking out of the end of it was this young person who contracted polio. This iron lung was helping these young kids to breathe and stay alive.

We lived in dread of the possibility of coming down with polio. I remember talking about it when I was a little kid. How do you get polio? Nobody knew.

Then the day came when Jonas Salk—Dr. Jonas Salk—developed a vaccine that was going to protect us from coming down with polio. Later on, Dr. Sabin developed an oral version of the vaccine, which we kids liked a lot more. But the bottom line was, in my lifetime, in my childhood, we stopped polio in the United States. It was a vaccine that worked, over and over and over again—a million times over again. It worked.

In 1952, polio paralyzed more than 21,000 Americans and killed more than 3,000. But thanks to researcher Jonas Salk, the vaccine was discovered and studied among 1.3 million children. They did testing of thousands of kids across the United States before they injected all of us. It was proven safe. The last case of wild polio found in the United States was 1979. That is over 40 years ago.

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., has spread conspiracy theories to discourage uptake of the measles vaccine, for example, including traveling to Samoa to spread lies about its safety, fueling an outbreak that took 80 lives—80 lives in Samoa.

Before the measles vaccine, 48,000 people were hospitalized each year in the United States, with thousands experiencing life-threatening brain swelling. By 2000, measles was officially declared eliminated because of vaccines.

Mr. Kennedy's dangerous anti-science views don't stop with these obvious vaccines that have helped America. He also targeted the fluoride in drinking water. We have been adding tiny bits of fluoride in our drinking water for over 70 years in the United States. We have tested every way you can imagine—as we should—to make sure that it is safe for all of us to drink. And the tests come back suggesting it has always proven its safety.

Why do we do it? It reduces cavities in teeth dramatically. A little bit of fluoride can go a long way in that regard. It has changed dentistry since I was a kid. Going to the dentist used to be a not very welcome adventure, and kids went regularly with cavities galore. I was one of them. But the fluoride in water changed things for my own children and grandchildren. It is safe, and it helps.

But Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., doesn't accept that. He wants to contest fluoride in drinking water. This man is not a scientist; he is a political figure. I have known him for many years. He has no special knowledge or authority when it comes to these issues and, sadly, buys into a myriad of conspiracy theories.

Let's be clear. There is no evidence that current recommended levels of fluoride cause any harm. On the flip side, it has been established, as I said, for over seven decades, that it helps prevent cavities and dental surgeries in children.

God forbid we ever encounter another pandemic or infectious disease threat. Do you really want this vaccine denier, Robert Kennedy, Jr., at the helm?

I issue a challenge to my 99 Senate colleagues. Go ask your local children's hospital if they think this nominee, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., would help or harm the way they work to treat our children. I know what the answer is going to be.

The U.S. Senate is better than this. I urge my colleagues to think twice before voting for this irresponsible nominee. The impact on the public health of

America could be devastating, and we have to accept the responsibility that this is the wrong nominee for this critical Agency.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I want to open with a few words on the announcement from China by DeepSeek.

Today's announcement from China has been called AI's "Sputnik moment" for America. This announcement is precisely why I made AI a top priority in the last Congress and will continue to do so. Our competitors are going to use every single opportunity to overtake the United States' lead on the technologies of the future, particularly AI. And if Congress does not lead the way, we are going to fall behind.

So I hope our bipartisan efforts on AI, which made some progress last year, will continue and even in a more robust way this year.

BIRD FLU

Madam President, next, on the price of eggs, earlier today, I was in Upstate New York at two beloved family-owned diners, Alton's near Buffalo and Jines in Rochester, to call for an all-hands-on-deck approach to stop the spread of bird flu and prevent higher egg prices.

Far too many families across New York and across the country—far too many—have been shell-shocked by higher egg prices as more bird flu outbreaks continue to happen, but so far, it seems President Trump has not enunciated any plan to address the bird flu outbreak. He spent his first week pardoning insurrectionists and firing government watchdogs instead of focusing on things ordinary Americans care about, like the price of groceries.

The President owes the American people some answers. What is he going to do about the price of eggs that has been exacerbated by bird flu? When hundreds of thousands and even millions of chickens die, they lay fewer eggs, and when there are fewer eggs, the price goes up.

The problem is reaching crisis levels. In November, a dozen eggs cost approximately \$4 in a grocery store in New York—already too high. It used to be \$2 a year earlier. Now that same dozen eggs costs \$6, and experts believe that the price of eggs could increase as much as 20 percent more this year if outbreaks continue, meaning that the same dozen eggs would be \$8.

Every day, we hear about the spread of bird flu. Last week, farmers on Long Island had to slaughter 100,000 ducks—Long Island is one of the duck-pro-

ducing capitals of the country—in response to another outbreak.

So, President Trump, what is your plan to stop the spread of bird flu?

The more bird flu spreads, the higher egg prices will go and the less money there will be in people's pockets for rent and gas and other expenses. We need some action.

Now, luckily, we have some resources available. Last year, I helped secure over \$300 million in Federal funding ahead of the new administration to keep the government laser-focused on ending the bird flu crisis. Should the \$300 million prove insufficient, I will keep working in a bipartisan way to push for more Federal resources in the upcoming budget negotiation.

One thing is certain: We have a lot of budget cutters out there, none with a sharper ax than Russell Vought. The Trump administration and Mr. Vought should not try to impound these congressionally approved funds, because we know Mr. Vought wants to impound in many, many places and not spend money where it is needed.

This is a small but classic example of how the Federal Government's action, not inaction, can get your prices lower. Real action—spending the \$300 million we put in the budget in December and more funds if needed—can reduce bird flu. The Department of Agriculture knows how to do it. It can help farmers reduce the bird flu in their flocks and get our prices of eggs back down again.

Let's get to work. The money is there and ready to be used. We need the Federal Government to work overtime with experts in the coming months to keep the outbreak in check and keep grocery prices in check for families.

INSPECTORS GENERAL

Madam President, on the IGs, last Friday, while most Americans were asleep, President Trump conducted a midnight massacre of many of the Federal Government's nonpartisan, independent watchdogs. The President did not notify the Congress of his decision as is required by law. The President did not offer any substantive explanation for these firings. Instead, the President simply said these positions were "terminated—effective immediately."

This is a chilling, potentially unlawful decision by the President. It is a reminder that if there is anything President Trump fears most, it is accountability. He likes to talk about one thing and then another and then doesn't like to be held accountable. When people stand up to President Trump, when people present him with facts and evidence that he doesn't like, his solution is to fire them and replace them with loyalists. I fear that this is what will happen here.

Purging the government of its independent watchdogs begs an obvious question: What is the President trying to hide? What does the President not want the American people to see? Does the President want to avoid accountability for the impoundment of congressionally approved funding? Does he

want to hold up foreign aid as blackmail without getting caught? Does he want to eliminate the scrutiny of improper government contracts? An independent inspector general could prevent many of these abuses.

An inspector general's job can be boiled down to two words: "transparency" and "accountability." That is what President Trump is apparently afraid of, but it is something most Americans want to have in their government.

JANUARY 6

Madam President, for all the talk President Trump does about standing up for law and order, he spent the first few days in office doing the opposite—pardoning lawless rioters who invaded the Capitol and attacked police officers on January 6.

Today, I am joining all 47 of my Senate Democratic colleagues in introducing a resolution condemning the pardoning of individuals who were found guilty of assaulting Capitol Police Officers on January 6. Senator MURRAY will seek the passage of this resolution this week. I hope our Republican colleagues will join us in condemning these pardons. Many of them saw the violence of January 6 firsthand. I did. This should be an easy resolution to pass.

By handing out these pardons to convicted criminals, President Trump is effectively saying: If you want to attack our brave police officers, that is OK. You are exonerated.

The President is saying: Do you want to try to thwart our democracy? Fine by me.

The President is saying: Do you want to break the law and engage in political violence? Be my guest.

One individual who received a pardon—listen to this—one individual who received a pardon was convicted of seditious conspiracy. A few days after the attack, he said:

[His] only regret is that they should have brought rifles.

That man is being pardoned. What a disgrace.

To repeat:

[His] only regret is that they should have brought rifles.

And President Trump pardoned him. Who could believe that? Who could believe that in America, that would happen? A few years back, no one would have even imagined. That is in some ways how our country has deteriorated, with President Trump doing what he is doing.

The people who invaded the Capitol on January 6, whether they engaged in violence or not, committed a very serious crime. There is no gray area here, especially not when it comes to people who attack police officers. The pardons must be condemned by the Senate, and Democrats will try to do that through our resolution this week.

CABINET NOMINATIONS

Madam President, on nominations, this week, three of the President's

most controversial nominees will testify before Senate committees—Kash Patel, Tulsi Gabbard, and Robert Kennedy, Jr. All three nominees have deeply troubling backgrounds and equally troubling views. If Pete Hegseth's nomination process was any indication, these controversial nominees can expect to face immense scrutiny from both sides of the aisle and from the American people.

Americans deserve to know: Will the Trump administration strengthen our health and security or strengthen big drug companies and pseudoscience? Mr. Kennedy's hearing will give us answers.

Also, we have to know from Mr. Kennedy: Does he want to eliminate lifesaving vaccines that have saved the lives and health of so many—so many—millions of children in the United States and around the globe?

Americans also deserve to know: Will the FBI focus on public safety and the rule of law or focus on Donald Trump's personal grievances? Mr. Patel, in his hearing, will give us answers.

Americans need to know: Will the Trump administration protect us from foreign adversaries and deal in truth and facts when it comes to classified intelligence—if there were ever a need for a fact-based Agency, it is the intelligence Agencies which gather information to keep us safe—or will these Agencies be turned to give shelter to conspiracy and misinformation in our intelligence? Ms. Gabbard's hearing will give us some very important answers here.

The people entrusted to oversee matters of public health and law enforcement and classified intelligence should be beyond reproach. Their qualifications should not be in doubt. But President Trump seems to have chosen three deeply unqualified, deeply untrustworthy individuals to these positions. Like Mr. Hegseth, it is hard to imagine that they are the best for the job or even close to it.

INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Madam President, today is International Holocaust Remembrance Day. We commemorate it because it is the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the few Jews who survived and were imprisoned at Auschwitz.

Never again can we allow anti-Semitism or any other form of hatred to fester and grow in the way we saw during the Nazi regime. We must always tell the truth about what happened to the Jewish people 80 years ago. We can never allow history to be forgotten, shunned, or deliberately erased.

It saddens me that this year, Holocaust Remembrance Day comes at a time of rising hatred against Jewish people, especially here in America after October 7.

Just yesterday, I visited a popular Israeli restaurant a few blocks from my home in Brooklyn. It is called Miriam. The night before, the restaurant and its owners were the victims of a despicable act of vandalism. Their windows were smeared with red paint and

defiled with messages of hate. The attack happened simply because the owners are Jewish, just because the owners are Jewish. That is anti-Semitism, pure and simple, and we must condemn it together forcefully.

As ugly as this incident was, I was inspired by how the owners and the community responded. They chose to leave the vandalism up for a day so that people and the media could see the dangers of letting anti-Semitism gain strength. Many in the area stopped by for lunch, offered to help with the cleanup, or just shared a message of support. I went and visited the restaurant in the evening with an order to go. That is New York at its best when these neighbors look after each other in the face of hate.

We must never, never fail to condemn anti-Semitism wherever or whenever it rears its ugly head. It comes now in many new dimensions. Some people seem impervious to things that seem to many Jewish people as being outright anti-Semitic. We have to be so vigilant. That is the best way to honor what Holocaust Remembrance Day represents.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 39, S. Res. 40, and S. Res. 41.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles, where applicable, be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions (S. Res. 39 and S. Res. 40) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The resolution (S. Res. 41) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

NOMINATION OF SCOTT BESSENT

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, I rise today in opposition to Scott Bessent to be the next Secretary of the Treasury and in support of tens of millions of working families who need a government on their side.

The Treasury Secretary is one of the President's top economic advisers. He has the power to lower costs for hard-working people or to give billionaires another break.

Now, Mr. Bessent has a long history as an investment manager, helping rich clients get even richer. In fact, helping rich people get richer has been a very profitable business for him. Mr. Bessent is now a billionaire himself. He owns not one but two multimillion-dollar mansions, including one in the Bahamas, and he has hundreds of millions of dollars in investments.

Now, he spent a lot of money, but he saved money in one area: He hasn't paid the taxes he owes. According to an analysis from congressional tax experts, Mr. Bessent has refused to pay \$2 million in taxes that he owed on his hedge fund earnings, just in the past 3 years.

And Mr. Bessent has no demonstrated track record of fighting to make life better or more affordable for working people.

So, let's start with some of Trump's economic plans that Mr. Bessent would be in charge of advancing. Right now, Republicans in the White House and in Congress are working through their plans to extend tax breaks for billionaires and giant corporations, paid for in part with major cuts to healthcare. In plain English, Republicans are hoping you won't notice major budget cuts for nursing homes that take care of your grandpa or the cuts in school lunches for poor kids. Move grandpa out of the nursing home and let the little kids go hungry in order to make sure that a tiny handful of billionaires get a few more truckloads of cash from Uncle Sam.

There is a truth no one can escape: Someone has to pay to run this country. Folks like Scott Bessent think the burden should be just a little heavier on working people because billionaires like him are smarter than everyone else. One place or the other, someone has to pay.

So during his hearing, I asked Mr. Bessent about those cuts for billionaires. I asked if there were any billionaires already rich enough that they didn't need another tax cut. And Mr. Bessent said, well, that it was unwise to single out anyone—not even billionaires.

You wouldn't want to single out a billionaire like Jeff Bezos, who pays a lower tax rate than a Boston public school teacher? You wouldn't want to single out a billionaire like Mark Zuckerberg, whose company Meta paid a tax rate of just 11.5 percent in 2023, despite making nearly \$40 billion in profits? You wouldn't want to single out a billionaire like Elon Musk, who is more focused on flying to Mars than making life better for working families here on Earth?

Those billionaires had better seats at Donald Trump's inauguration than Trump's own Cabinet members. Those billionaires dominate the American economy, and Republicans plan to give them more tax breaks.

This is the payout for Trump's "rich as hell donors," and Mr. Bessent is another billionaire ready to do the hard work of cutting taxes for every billionaire in America, himself included.

The top economic issue today is: How do we lower costs for families and build an economy that works, not just for the wealthy and the well connected, but an economy that works for everyone?

I am hammering out plans to make it a little easier for families to be able to pay their bills, to buy a home, and to build some financial security.

Trump's tax breaks for billionaires is the same old Republican playbook of trickle-down economics: Help the rich get richer, and leave everyone else behind.

But that is not the Trump administration's only bad economic idea. Mr. Bessent has been an advocate for deregulating Wall Street and letting big banks load up on risk. Deregulate Wall Street—yes, a lot of people remember how that approach brought our economy to its knees back in 2008. People who remember include the millions of people who lost their homes, the millions who lost their jobs, and the millions who lost their savings. And now, once again, President Trump wants to run the same economic play, and Mr. Bessent is the guy he has picked to do it.

We don't need less oversight of giant banks and Wall Street movers and shakers. Risk is building in the system. The too-big-to-fail banks are quietly taking on riskier investments. The shadowy private credit market has loaded up on highly leveraged loans. And after waves of catastrophic losses, the insurance industry is facing a reckoning that even climate change deniers can't ignore.

Without significant changes, another financial crash is coming. As we learned, those big crashes fall hardest on hard-working people who are just trying to make a living.

A billionaire willing to roll along on deregulation poses a threat to the economic well-being of every American, and a billionaire who supports more tax cuts for every single billionaire in America is not someone who is watching out for hard-working families.

For me, this is simple. I am ready to work together with President Trump's team wherever we agree to help working families. But I am also ready to fight like hell when Republicans pursue economic policies that load up the risk in our financial system or tax policies that mostly benefit billionaires.

I will vote no on Mr. Bessent to be the next Secretary of the Treasury, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

NOMINATION OF SEAN DUFFY

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, I rise in support of the nomination of Sean Duffy to serve as our next Secretary of Transportation.

Sean Duffy and I have known each other for many years and worked together in the Wisconsin delegation during our time in the House of Representatives.

As a Wisconsin native, Mr. Duffy is a former Congressman who represented Wisconsin's Seventh Congressional District from 2011 to 2019, and, in that time, we partnered on shared priorities for our constituents, including the St. Croix bridge in western Wisconsin.

You know, during his confirmation hearing before the Commerce Committee, I shared this story. It usually does not take an act of Congress to build a bridge, but in this case, it was needed to build a new bridge over the St. Croix River, connecting Wisconsin to Minnesota.

With help from Senators KLOBUCHAR, Kohl, and JOHNSON, Sean Duffy and I, without hesitation, whipped our respective caucuses and brought together a House majority necessary to pass legislation to replace the 80-year-old Stillwater Bridge. As Sean can attest, this was a decades-long battle, which resulted in a significant bipartisan win for our State and our region. It was not a matter of right or left, just what was good for our constituents, our economy, and our State.

Today, the St. Croix Crossing, which opened in 2017, has shortened traffic times, reduced congestion, and, most importantly, improved safety. This type of bipartisan work for the American people is what I expect to see from Sean Duffy as Secretary of Transportation. Our efforts show that when we work together, we get important things done.

And, as I told my colleagues on the Commerce Committee about the nominee, we haven't always agreed, and I am certain that will continue to be true. I will be the first to call out any efforts to roll back our "Buy America" rules or weaken safety or increase costs or cut funding for critical projects like the Blatnik Bridge in my State.

At the end of the day, I am confident that Sean Duffy is the right person for this job and will help deliver for Wisconsin families, businesses, and workers. He has committed to being a strong partner on strengthening "Buy

America'' rules, and I look forward to working with him on our upcoming surface transportation reauthorization. I expect that he will work with Members on both sides of the aisle to improve our infrastructure and address challenges in the years ahead.

I urge my colleagues to support the nomination of Sean Duffy as Secretary of Transportation.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Oregon.

NOMINATION OF SCOTT BESSENT

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, the Senate will vote shortly on the nomination of Scott Bessent for Treasury Secretary. I urge opposition to this nomination. Here is why. First off, nearly a million dollars in unpaid Medicare taxes. For the vast majority of Americans, paying Medicare taxes is automatic. They come straight out of every paycheck. Not so for individuals like Mr. Bessent. Those at the very top who operate under a different set of tax rules operate a different way.

Mr. Bessent comes from Wall Street. To opt out of paying his fair share into Medicare, he follows a tax dodge that is common among ultrawealthy hedge fund managers. They spend top dollar to get the best tax lawyers and accountants. They mash together loopholes and twist the law until—poof—Medicare taxes just disappear.

Mr. Bessent has avoided paying almost a million dollars in the 3 years of tax returns the Finance Committee has reviewed. There could be a lot more in other years.

Now the Treasury Department says what Mr. Bessent is doing is a violation of the law. The IRS has gone to court twice to close this loophole. It won both times.

We raised this with Mr. Bessent and urged him to pay what he owes. He said no. He is just going to wait out the appeals process, running down the clock in the hopes he doesn't have to pay.

So if Mr. Bessent is confirmed, the day that he is sworn in, the Treasury Secretary will be in violation of Treasury policy. Let me repeat that. If Mr. Bessent is confirmed, the day that he is sworn in, we will have a Treasury Secretary who is in violation of Treasury policy. It is an absurd double standard to maintain for the benefit of one individual with immense power. It also raises the question, Is he going to change Treasury's position on this issue, enriching himself and other Wall Street billionaires, or will the Treasury and the IRS continue to enforce its policy for all the taxpayers of this country except the sitting Treasury Secretary?

This was not the only tax issue identified in his returns. There were ques-

tionable losses from side businesses and a questionable debt writeoff.

We asked for documentation to prove that Mr. Bessent was following the law and paying what he owed. He didn't provide that either.

The reality is, what Mr. Bessent owes in Medicare taxes is a trivial amount compared to someone with his wealth. He could do the right thing and pay. He wouldn't even notice it.

It is routine for nominees that come through the Finance Committee to have to resolve the tax issues we spot in the vetting process. Mr. Bessent has refused that as well.

The second issue with the nomination: I have seen a number of nominees, and I can't recall meeting one in my time on the committee who was more unprepared. He struggled to answer basic tax policy questions in one-on-one meetings and in his committee hearing. For example, I asked him a simple policy question: Should wages be treated differently than wealth? This is a central question in the debate about taxes. When Senators talk about the unfairness of the tax system, this issue I asked him about is the center of the debate. It is a question of whether the ultrawealthy should get a better deal than the people who work for a living. Mr. Bessent fumbled, and after a bit, he basically just said: That is the way it is.

Senator HASSAN asked the nominee about another important issue: research and development incentives—matters that both sides care about. I know the President of the Senate and I have talked about that research and development issue many times.

Senator BENNET asked about the unfairness of making cuts that will hurt working families and raise the cost of living, while Donald Trump is also running up deficits with the big tax breaks for the people at the top. Again, Mr. Bessent had no answer.

Senator WARNOCK and Senator WARREN asked about the wastefulness of giving tax breaks to individuals with incomes over a million dollars, a billion dollars, 10 billion dollars. Mr. Bessent dodged.

Senator LUJÁN actually asked about Trump cutting Medicaid. It wasn't clear whether Mr. Bessent knew what Medicaid was.

Now, nobody expects nominees to be walking encyclopedias on every possible question under the Sun, but Mr. Bessent's performance was, in my view—having watching a number of nominees, a new low when it comes to basic policy issues that are going to be at the center of the debate and the center of his job if confirmed.

Even worse, I asked Mr. Bessent a simple question about the Trump tariffs: Who is going to pay them, I asked. Americans or foreigners?

Mr. Bessent responded with a convoluted academic answer that covered for Trump, who routinely distorts this issue and has routinely said falsely—Donald Trump says: Foreigners are

going to pay—not people in Alabama, not people in Oregon, not people in America. And it is just untrue.

We are 1 week into Trump's second term, and already he is gunning for a trade war. That is going to clobber American consumers and small businesses, including a lot of farmers and ranchers.

If anybody out there was looking for evidence that Mr. Bessent would be a check on Donald Trump's worst instincts on tariffs and other economic policies, it is sure not looking good.

The third reason why I oppose this nomination is he is already ignoring congressional oversight.

I'll walk through the background on this. During the Presidential campaign, a longtime Trump adviser named Boris Epshteyn ran a quid pro quo scheme. He approached people who wanted Cabinet appointments, and he said he would push Trump to nominate them in exchange for payments adding up to hundreds of thousands of dollars. Mr. Bessent apparently was among the people that Donald Trump adviser Boris Epshteyn spoke to, according to numerous news reports.

When the Finance Committee read about this scheme, it was clear we needed more information. We sent the Trump transition letters with a few key questions. We got no response.

I asked Mr. Bessent about it in our one-on-one meeting. He confirmed that Mr. Epshteyn spoke with him about payments for "public relations"—a sleazy way for somebody in Trump's inner circle to pitch an obvious quid pro quo.

Mr. Bessent's story then changed in response to a written question. His new answer was that nobody ever asked him about payments in exchange for an appointment. And even though the committee knows there was an internal investigation into Epshteyn's conduct, Mr. Bessent still won't reveal who else in Trump's orbit he talked to about it.

So my point in bringing up this issue—because we have now heard a response to the question three different ways—is it has never been more important for the Senate to stand up and fight for congressional oversight.

Late on Friday night, a couple of nights ago, Donald Trump fired 17 inspectors general, the independent watchdogs that we rely on—that every Senator relies on, every Democrat, every Republican—to identify and combat waste, fraud, and abuse in the executive branch.

The Treasury Inspector General was reportedly one of the 17. Let that sink in. Here we are trying to get answers with respect to an individual nominated to be head of the Treasury Department and the Treasury Inspector General was reportedly one of the 17 who was just fired.

The midnight massacre, in my view, was obviously an illegal act by the Trump administration. My hope is—and I believe—the court will strike this down immediately.

Regardless of what happens next, it is obvious that the Trump administration wants to eliminate those people who are going to stand in the way of corruption and call it out.

As a major donor and Cabinet nominee, Mr. Bessent is volunteering to walk right into this culture of corruption that defines Trump and his administration. For him to be shirking oversight by Congress before he is even confirmed is just unacceptable.

Madam President, these are the reasons that I oppose this nomination.

Just picture what it is like to say to the people of Alabama, to the people of Oregon, all over the country—my colleague Senator CRAPO—the rules don't apply to the Treasury nominee. They just don't. You the pay your Medicare taxes if you are everybody else—if you are a firefighter, a nurse or a teacher—but not if you are the new Treasury appointee who is violating rules that the Treasury Department has said he is violating.

Mr. Bessent has cheated on his taxes, according to Treasury policy. It would be a huge double standard, a major conflict of interest if he is confirmed and he can maintain his position that he doesn't have to pay Medicare taxes like everybody else in America. I already made the point that he was deeply unprepared on many of the big questions.

I will tell my colleagues, I don't even get the view that he did prep 101, which is to go out and talk to Senators about issues. He would have heard from Mr. LUJÁN that Mr. LUJÁN was going to be interested in matters like Medicaid. That kind of prep is the easiest part of the nomination process.

Mr. Bessent has already shown that he has little respect for congressional oversight. I think that this nomination is badly flawed. I hope that the Senate won't accept it.

I have been through a number of those flaws, starting with violating the policy requiring you to pay your Medicare taxes. This nomination is, in my view, an exhibit of what you shouldn't do before you come before the floor of the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the confirmation of Mr. Scott Bessent, who has been nominated to serve as Secretary of the Treasury.

Over the weekend, the Senate voted with broad bipartisan support to advance Mr. Bessent's nomination. In fact, 15 of my Democrat colleagues joined Republicans in advancing Mr. Bessent's nomination.

Despite Mr. Bessent's prolific experience and qualifications, which cannot be disputed, a few detractors frame their policy preferences—and I emphasize "policy preferences"—as if they are compliance issues with regard to his taxes.

Let me be clear: Mr. Bessent followed all applicable law and met the Finance

Committee's longstanding and rigorous diligence standard. The Finance Committee has the most rigorous standards for vetting nominees of any committee in this Congress, including looking at their past tax returns and having tax experts come in and evaluate their tax returns with us.

His diligence matched that which has applied to nominees in previous administrations. Contrary to what you heard, he provided extensive supporting material for all of the attacks on him, including more than 3,000 pages' worth. And he and his staff spent countless hours with Republican and Democrat Senate Finance Committee members and staff going over all of these allegations and all of these claimed failures to pay taxes.

He has gone further by not only divesting all of his business ties, which is no small task, but by publicly committing that if there is any change in the law in the future on these policy arguments, that he would comply with those changes in the law.

But let me state this again as clearly as it can be said: Scott Bessent paid his taxes. I have heard it said twice on this floor that he did not pay his taxes. Experts have gone over his tax returns, and he has complied with standard, prevailing interpretations of the Tax Code every time.

The issue here is that the IRS wants to change the interpretation of the Tax Code. But the IRS doesn't get to decide what our Tax Code says; Congress does. And Congress has not made the changes that the IRS wants to see.

Even in the face of that, arguing that he should have done what the IRS wanted him to do—in fact, they didn't even say they wanted him to do it; they said it to other taxpayers, and other taxpayers have taken the IRS to court over this issue—but Mr. Bessent has said if the IRS prevails and changes the Tax Code, the interpretation of the Tax Code, he will comply.

But the argument that he has not complied with longstanding tax policy and interpretation is false. I don't know anybody who can go through a more rigorous standard than what we put him through in the Finance Committee.

As for the nominee, Mr. Bessent has worked for the last three decades as one of the sharpest minds in the global finance industry. He has decades of academic, professional, and leadership experience relevant to the position of Treasury Secretary. His performance at the committee was stellar. His background and training are tailor-made for this role. And he has the demeanor and character to be an effective Secretary.

Mr. Bessent is committed to restoring the prosperity and opportunity experienced under President Trump's leadership. This includes ensuring that we avert an over \$4-trillion tax hike on the American people if the Trump tax cuts are allowed to expire, which he rightly described at his nomination hearing as a pass-fail exercise. There

should be no question that we will extend these tax cuts.

I have also heard it argued on this floor here today that this is just a tax cut for rich billionaires. The reality is that the vast majority of it—the vast majority—of this tax cut goes to everyday people, to people making less than \$400,000 a year. And the \$400,000 is computed by \$200,000 per individual so a married couple could equal the \$400,000 level. The vast majority of those tax cuts, however, go to people in the lower- and middle-income tax brackets. The tax cuts that we are talking about gave tax cuts to every single solitary income cohort in the Tax Code and the greatest tax cuts went to those in the lower- and middle-income categories.

It would be terrible if we did not extend these tax cuts. Yet Mr. Bessent is attacked for saying he supports extending these tax cuts. It doesn't make sense.

I look forward to working closely with him to make sure that we extend the policies that benefited Americans of every income bracket and enabled families and businesses to get ahead.

I should also say that under this tax policy, when it was passed, the richest in America paid a greater percentage of the overall tax burden than they had before.

Yet he is attacked for wanting to extend these tax cuts that will hammer every single tax-paying American if they are allowed to expire. If qualifications—and I might add, character—are one of the tests for supporting a nominee, voting to confirm Mr. Bessent is one of the easiest that we could take.

In previous Congresses, many of my Republican colleagues and I have voted for candidates we considered to be qualified to serve as Treasury Secretary, even when they were nominated by Democratic Presidents and we disagreed with many of their policy positions. Mr. Bessent's candidacy ought to enjoy similar bipartisan support.

I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join with me in confirming his nomination. He is the right person for this job, and I commend President Trump in making such an excellent selection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 2 additional minutes.

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

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I often worked with Senator CRAPO in a positive way, and I know we are going to do that in the future.

I want to make sure there is no confusion with respect to this Medicare tax issue. We had a number of nominees over the years who have actually dropped out, and they have owed less money than, in effect, Mr. Bessent would if he complied with Treasury rules.

If he is confirmed, on the day he is sworn in, he will be in violation of

Treasury policy, and we will have established another double standard in the tax area that sends a message that if you are powerful, if you have accountants, if you have lawyers, you can basically figure out a way to not pay what you would pay if you were a firefighter or a teacher. I think that double standard is regrettable.

I continue to urge opposition to the nominee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAPO. I ask unanimous consent to speak for just 15 seconds.

I am going to state again, Mr. Bessent went through the most rigorous evaluation of his tax returns that anybody in America has ever faced. He passed the entire test every time. He has paid the taxes he has owed under the U.S. Government's Tax Code.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to complete my brief remarks before the vote that is scheduled tonight.

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

NOMINATION OF SEAN DUFFY

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I rise in support of the nomination of Sean Duffy to be Secretary of Transportation.

Last week, Congressman Duffy was reported favorably out of the Commerce Committee without a single "no" vote. All 28 members of the Commerce Committee—Republicans and Democrats—voted in favor of Congressman Duffy.

Two weeks ago, Congressman Duffy appeared before the Commerce Committee for nearly 3 hours for two rounds of questions, his family seated behind him, and he thoughtfully and ably answered the questions put forth by all of the members of the committee.

The resounding bipartisan support for his nomination demonstrates that Republicans and Democrats believe Congressman Duffy is eminently qualified to serve as the Secretary of Transportation.

Transportation is not Republican; it is not Democrat. Transportation is for all Americans, from roads to bridges to waterways to airspace. All Americans depend on the Department of Transportation to help ensure a safe and sufficient transportation system. Congressman Duffy understands this.

He is a five-term Congressman who reached across not just the aisle but across Chambers to bring home needed infrastructure to his district.

To quote his home State Senator, Senator BALDWIN, a Democrat, who spoke glowingly of Congressman Duffy:

Sean is the right person for this job.

I agree with Senator BALDWIN. As a father of nine children, Congressman Duffy told committee members:

I think about transportation quite a bit, and about transportation safety a lot.

He understands what American families care about: making sure that when they get in their cars or on a plane or are with their families, they know they will get to their destinations safely.

He embodies the "revolution of common sense" that President Trump has called for.

Not only has Congressman Duffy earned the support of the entire Commerce Committee, but there are over 60 stakeholders in support of his nomination. Congressman Duffy has received wide support from labor, from airlines, from railroads, from manufacturers, from energy providers, and many more.

It is my hope that, given this unanimous support that Congressman Duffy received on Wednesday from the Commerce Committee, the entire Senate can follow suit, that we can all agree he is the kind of consensus-driven leader we need at the Department of Transportation.

Therefore, I urge all of our colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, to come together and vote in support of the confirmation of Sean Duffy to be the next Secretary of Transportation.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON BESSENT NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

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

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 68, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 19 Ex.]

YEAS—68

Banks	Fetterman	Lummis
Barrasso	Fischer	Marshall
Blackburn	Gallego	McConnell
Blunt Rochester	Gillibrand	McCormick
Booker	Graham	Moody
Boozman	Grassley	Moran
Britt	Hagerty	Moreno
Budd	Hassan	Mullin
Cantwell	Hawley	Murkowski
Capito	Hickenlooper	Paul
Cassidy	Hoeven	Peters
Collins	Husted	Ricketts
Coons	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Cornyn	Johnson	Rounds
Cotton	Justice	Schmitt
Cramer	Kaine	Scott (FL)
Crapo	Kelly	Scott (SC)
Cruz	Kennedy	Shaheen
Curtis	King	Slotkin
Daines	Lankford	Sullivan
Ernst	Lee	

Thune	Tuberville	Wicker
Tillis	Warner	Young

NAYS—29

Alsobrooks	Klobuchar	Schiff
Baldwin	Lujan	Schumer
Bennet	Markey	Smith
Blumenthal	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Reed	Welch
Heinrich	Rosen	Whitehouse
Hirono	Sanders	Wyden
Kim	Schatz	

NOT VOTING—3

Ossoff	Padilla	Sheehy
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived with respect to the Duffy nomination.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

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 Executive Calendar No. 6, Sean Duffy, of Wisconsin, to be Secretary of Transportation.

John Thune, Shelley Moore Capito, Jon Husted, Tom Cotton, Mike Rounds, Jim Justice, Mike Crapo, Ted Budd, James Lankford, Dan Sullivan, Todd Young, Cynthia M. Lummis, Katie Britt, John R. Curtis, Rick Scott of Florida, Thom Tillis, Ron Johnson.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Sean Duffy, of Wisconsin, to be Secretary of Transportation, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 20 Ex.]

YEAS—97

Alsobrooks	Grassley	Murray
Baldwin	Hagerty	Paul
Banks	Hassan	Peters
Barrasso	Hawley	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hickenlooper	Risch
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Blunt Rochester	Hoeven	Rounds
Booker	Husted	Sanders
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Britt	Johnson	Schiff
Budd	Justice	Schmitt
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Capito	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Collins	Kim	Shaheen
Coons	King	Slotkin
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Smith
Cortez Masto	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lujan	Tillis
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Cruz	Markey	Van Hollen
Curtis	Marshall	Warner
Daines	McConnell	Warnock
Duckworth	McCormick	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Welch
Ernst	Moody	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Moreno	Wyden
Galleo	Mullin	Young
Gillibrand	Murkowski	
Graham	Murphy	

NOT VOTING—3

Ossoff Padilla Sheehy

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 97, the nays are 0.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Sean Duffy, of Wisconsin, to be Secretary of Transportation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 8.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Lee Zeldin, of New York, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 Executive Calendar No. 8, Lee Zeldin, of New York, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, James C. Justice, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, David McCormick, Steve Daines, Joni Ernst, Roger Marshall, Deb Fischer, Chuck Grassley, Bernie Moreno, Ted Budd, John Kennedy, John Boozman, Tommy Tuberville, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 9.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Douglas Burgum, of North Dakota, to be Secretary of the Interior.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 Executive Calendar No. 9, Douglas Burgum, of North Dakota, to be Secretary of the Interior.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, James C. Justice, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, David McCormick, Steve Daines, Joni Ernst, Roger Marshall, Deb Fischer, Chuck Grassley, Bernie Moreno, Ted Budd, John Kennedy, John Boozman, Tommy Tuberville, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 10.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Christopher Wright, of Colorado, to be Secretary of Energy.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 Executive Calendar No. 10, Christopher Wright, of Colorado, to be Secretary of Energy.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, James C. Justice, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, David McCormick, Steve Daines, Joni Ernst, Roger Marshall, Deb Fischer, Chuck Grassley, Bernie Moreno, Ted Budd, John Kennedy, John Boozman, Tommy Tuberville, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 7.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Douglas Collins, of Georgia, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 Executive Calendar No. 7, Douglas Collins, of Georgia, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, James C. Justice, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, David McCormick, Steve Daines, Joni Ernst, Roger Marshall, Deb Fischer, Chuck Grassley, Bernie Moreno, Ted Budd, John Kennedy, John Boozman, Tommy Tuberville, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 18, motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Scott Bessent to be Secretary of the Treasury. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted nay.

REMEMBERING ELWYNDA KOWAN PATTERSON CHAPMAN

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of the late Elwynda Kowan Patterson Chapman of Mitchellville, MD.

Mrs. Chapman was born in Kinston, NC, to loving parents Courtney L. Patterson and Bernice I. White Patterson. After attending local schools, Mrs. Chapman continued her education at North Carolina Central University and later received her masters in library science from the Catholic University of America in 1980.

Mrs. Chapman pursued her passion with a tremendous career as a library scientist, serving the Federal Government over countless years at the U.S. Naval Academy, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Census Bureau, the National Agricultural Library, and the U.S. Department of Transportation. Her commitment to her career culminated in her participation in the founding of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Library and Information Network, which has been instrumental to the organization and sharing of relevant security data between agencies.

In addition to her robust career, Mrs. Chapman was a pillar of her community. From 1988, Elwynda and her husband "Mayor" David Chapman were

deeply involved in the Lake Arbor Community. Above all, Mrs. Chapman had a paramount devotion to the First Baptist Church of Glenarden, where she is best remembered for her love of worship and praise songs, involvement within the Sunday school, and faith community outreach efforts.

Mrs. Chapman's memory is cherished by all those who knew her, but especially by her family. She is survived by her husband David, with whom she was childhood sweethearts and married for 62 years, and her children and grandchildren, who will miss her dearly. I ask my colleagues to join me in offering heartfelt gratitude to Mrs. Chapman's family for her service. She will be sorely missed by all, but her lasting legacy will be forever etched into our community.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING MYERS TREE FARM

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Myers Tree Farm of Sperry, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1987, Robert and Patti Myers planted the first group of Christmas trees on an acre of land in hopes to sell them and help pay for their children's college education. This inspired their son Chad Myers to begin working at a local nursery and even using his graduation money to purchase and sell trees in the community. While attending Iowa State University, Chad spent summers expanding the family business. After graduating with a degree in horticulture in 1993, Chad took over the business full-time.

Today, Chad and his wife Joni, along with 12 community members, help operate the business. The company features over 5,000 Scotch Pine, White Pine, and Norway Spruce trees across 25 acres of land. They offer full-service landscaping, including seeding, sodding, tree transplanting, and more. Chad's college studies in greenhouse management inspired the construction of the farm's first greenhouse, which later evolved into the Potting Shed, a flower and home decor shop run by Joni. In 2019, the Myers renovated their barn into a wedding venue. What started as a kind gesture to assist a friend during a storm in 2008 has since transformed into a pivotal element of their business and creative spirit.

Serving the community remains the core of Myers Tree Farm. Since 2001, the business has hosted an annual Fourth of July celebration to thank their customers. This event features a professional fireworks show attracting over 5,000 attendees each year. Additionally, Myers Tree Farm is a member of the National Christmas Tree Grow-

ers, as well as the Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association. Later this year, Myers Tree Farm looks forward to celebrating its 38th anniversary in Iowa.

The entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to excellence demonstrated by Myers Tree Farm is clear. I want to congratulate this family-owned and operated business and the Myers' dedication to enriching the Sperry community and providing exceptional products and services to families across Iowa. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success.●

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-158. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Privacy Act Regulations" ((RIN0579-AE68) (Docket No. APHIS-2015-0008)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-159. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a violation of the Antideficiency Act that involved fiscal years 2021 and 2022 National Guard Personnel, Army appropriations funds and was assigned case number 23-01; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-160. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Unsecured Credit Limits for Federal Home Loan Banks" (RIN2590-AB41) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-161. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 14064 with respect to the widespread humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and the potential for a deepening economic collapse in Afghanistan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-162. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 14014 with respect to the situation in and in relation to Burma; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-163. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Inflation Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-164. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13581 with respect to significant transnational criminal organizations; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-165. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13441 with respect to Lebanon; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-166. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules of Practice and Procedure; Civil Money Penalty Inflation Adjustment" (RIN2590-AB45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-167. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "HOME Investment Partnerships Program: Program Updates and Streamlining" (RIN2506-AC50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-168. A communication from the Executive Assistant, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Glen Canyon National Recreation Area; Motor Vehicles" (RIN1024-AE80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-169. A communication from the Principal Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Ohio Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Plan [OH-259-FOR]" (Docket ID OSM-2017-0002) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-170. A communication from the Principal Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Wyoming Regulatory Program [WY-049-FOR]" (Docket ID OSM-2021-0003) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-171. A communication from the Principal Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Montana Regulatory Program/Reclamation Plan [MT-040-FOR]" (Docket ID OSM-2023-0001) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-172. A communication from the Principal Deputy Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Montana Regulatory Program [MT-042-FOR]" (Docket ID OSM-2023-0007) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-173. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Buy America Requirements for Manufactured Products" (RIN2125-AG13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-174. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant

to law, the report of a rule entitled "Adjustment of Civil Penalties for Inflation for Fiscal Year 2025" (RIN3150-AK96) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-175. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Evaluation Approving Technical Specifications Task Force (TSTF) Traveler TSTF 576, Revision 3, 'Revise Safety/Relief Valve Requirements'" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-176. A communication from the Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Injurious Wildlife Species; listing Salamanders Due to Risk of Salamander Chytrid Fungus" (RIN1018-BA77) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-177. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revenue Procedure - Update on Application of Section 530" (Rev. Proc. 2025-10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-178. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revenue Ruling: I.R.C. Section 3509 - Determination of Employer's Liability for Certain Employment Taxes" (Rev. Rul. 2025-3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-179. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Elder Justice Coordinating Council 2020-2022 Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-180. A communication from the Director of the Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Agreement Between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada (USMCA) Implementing Regulations Related to Textile and Apparel Goods, Automotive Goods, and Other USMCA Provisions interim final rule" (RIN1685-AA00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-181. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Guidance under Section 2801 Regarding the Imposition of Tax on Certain Gifts and Bequests from Covered Expatriates" (RIN1545-BJ43) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-182. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Section 45Y Clean Electricity Production Credit and Section 48E Clean Electricity Investment Credit" (RIN1545-BR17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-183. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, In-

ternal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Classification of Digital Content Transactions and Cloud Transactions" (RIN1545-BM41) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-184. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules Regarding Certain Disregarded Payments and Dual Consolidated Losses" (RIN1545-BQ72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-185. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Resolution of Federal Tax Controversies by the Independent Office of Appeals" (RIN1545-BP72) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-186. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Micro-captive Listed Transactions and Micro-captive Transactions of Interest" (RIN1545-BQ44) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-187. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Certain Partnership Related-Party Basis Adjustment Transactions as Transactions of Interest" (RIN1545-BR07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-188. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 14078 with respect to hostage-taking and the wrongful detention of United States nationals abroad; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-189. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13936 with respect to Hong Kong; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-190. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Impact of Inflation on Retirement Savings"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-191. A communication from Senior Attorney Advisor, AmeriCorps, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Annual Civil Monetary Penalties Inflation Adjustment" (RIN3045-AA93) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-192. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prohibited Transaction Exemption 2002-51 to Permit Certain Transactions Identified in the Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program" (RIN1210-ZA33) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-193. A communication from the Supervisory Program Analyst, Department of

Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Annual Adjustments for 2025" (RIN1290-AA48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-194. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing Benefits" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-195. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Adjustment of Civil Penalties for Inflation" (RIN1212-AB45) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-196. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program" (RIN1210-AB64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-197. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's 2024 FAIR Act Inventory of Inherently Governmental Activities and Inventory of Commercial Activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-198. A communication from the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Annual Performance Report for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-199. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel/Rules Administrator, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Inmate Legal Activities: Visits by Attorneys" (RIN1120-AB75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-200. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel/Rules Administrator, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Tort Claims Act - Technical Changes" (RIN1120-AB80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Ms. BLUNT ROCH-ESTER):

S. 257. A bill to improve the resilience of critical supply chains, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 258. A bill to improve forecasting and understanding of tornadoes and other hazardous weather, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 259. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to publish a list of entities that hold authorizations, licenses, or other grants of authority issued by the Commission and that have certain foreign ownership, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRUZ, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 260. A bill to amend the Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act to require hygienic handling of breast milk and baby formula by security screening personnel of the Transportation Security Administration and personnel of private security companies providing security screening, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 261. A bill to immediately halt investment by United States persons in the energy sector of Venezuela until the legitimate results of the July 28, 2024, election are respected; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 262. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Master Sergeant Roderick "Roddie" Edmonds in recognition of his heroic actions during World War II; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. LEE, Mr. KING, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 263. A bill to restore the integrity of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. THUNE, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BUDD, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. SHEEHY, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S.J. Res. 7. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Federal Communications Commission relating to "Addressing the Homework Gap Through the E-Rate Program"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. Res. 39. A resolution supporting the observation of National Trafficking and Modern Slavery Prevention Month during the period beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on February 1, 2025, to raise awareness of, and opposition to, human trafficking and modern slavery; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. Res. 40. A resolution commemorating the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the

Auschwitz extermination camp in Nazi-occupied Poland and International Holocaust Remembrance Day; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. Res. 41. A resolution authorizing the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate to conduct quarterly blood donation drives during the 119th Congress; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 9

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 9, a bill to provide that for purposes of determining compliance with title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 in athletics, sex shall be recognized based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth.

S. 113

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 113, a bill to require the appropriate Federal banking agencies to establish a 3-year phase-in period for de novo financial institutions to comply with Federal capital standards, to provide relief for de novo rural community banks, and for other purposes.

S. 129

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 129, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the application of the income tax on qualified tips through a deduction allowed to all individual taxpayers, and for other purposes.

S. 137

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 137, a bill to amend title 41, United States Code, to prohibit the Federal Government from entering into contracts with an entity that discriminates against firearm or ammunition industries, and for other purposes.

S. 200

At the request of Mr. MORENO, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 200, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the eligibility requirements for asylum.

S. 204

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 204, a bill to protect the right of parents to direct the upbringing of their children as a fundamental right.

S. 213

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 213, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the deduction for qualified business income.

S. 237

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 237, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide public safety officer benefits for exposure-related cancers, and for other purposes.

S. 243

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 243, a bill to extend the period for filing claims under the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act and to provide for compensation under such Act for claims relating to Manhattan Project waste, and to improve compensation for workers involved in uranium mining.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 261. A bill to immediately halt investment by United States persons in the energy sector of Venezuela until the legitimate results of the July 28, 2024, election are respected; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in 2018, I had the opportunity to visit Venezuela. It was a once prosperous, albeit imperfect, democracy suffering from terrible economic and political decline. I told then-President Maduro that if he rigged the upcoming election, Venezuelans would be even more isolated and endure further unnecessary suffering.

It didn't stop him for a minute. He went ahead with a discredited election. The result was as predicted: The economy of Venezuela started descending into chaos. People were literally starving. There was an exodus of millions of people from Venezuela.

You might say, if you believe that the United States has no responsibility: What is it our business anyway? Countries are going to have failed governments, and so what? What difference does it make? Well, the difference it makes is the thousands and thousands of Venezuelans who were part of an exodus from Venezuela. Most of them went to Colombia and nearby nations, but many of them came to the United States. I know. I met them. They were the bus people that were sent to Chicago, for example, by the Governor of Texas, overwhelmingly Venezuelans.

How many actually came to the United States, I am not sure. I am not sure anybody really knows, but we are talking about thousands.

And at this point, imagine what we are suggesting. This man Maduro is still in control in Venezuela, and we are going to go through a mass deportation where we round up the Venezuelans who came to this country and send them back, back to starvation, political oppression.

I get it. If you are a dangerous person, you never should have come to this country in the first place. And if you commit a serious crime once you are here, I don't believe you should stay. Just that basic.

I don't go as far as the bill we considered a week or so ago. I believe that prosecution and a finding of guilt is still important in an America that is ruled by due process.

But having said that, What are we going to do about Venezuela? The same man is still there, and there have been not one, but two rotten, suspect elections in the time since I have been there.

Last July, for example, Venezuela held another Presidential election, during which the regime arbitrarily blocked the leading opposition candidates from the ballot and tried to undermine the electoral process. Nonetheless, more than 10 million Venezuelans actually voted. And results meticulously documented by credible election monitors showed a sweeping victory not for Maduro, the incumbent, but for Edmundo Gonzalez, his opponent.

I was glad to see that one of the newly confirmed Secretary of State Rubio's first calls was to President-elect Gonzalez, who actually won the election.

Despite his sweeping, clear victory, the Maduro regime has refused to give up the office of Presidency and refused to recognize the legitimate election results.

Maduro regime announced they won—actually, not true; arbitrarily arrested thousands of opponents; issued an arrest warrant for Gonzalez, which is becoming a common trick by these dictators; and refused to swear him in on inauguration day.

So today, I am introducing a short bill terminating U.S. petroleum cooperation and related trade with Venezuela until the legitimate results of the election are respected.

It is pretty simple. The entrenched regime clings to power using oil revenues, some of them from the United States. Under my bill, that comes to an end.

President Trump and Secretary Rubio could also take this step right now without my legislation, but maybe the bill will be a reminder that this is a good idea.

Lastly, I appealed to our democratic allies in the region, including the democracies of the Caribbean, to stand resolute in defense of a sweeping and clear vote by their exhausted Venezuelan neighbors. They cannot sit idly by for another 6 years of regime-inflicted suffering and collapse in Venezuela.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 261

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Halt All United States Investments in Venezuela’s Energy Sector Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On July 28, 2024, more than 10,000,000 citizens of Venezuela voted in a presidential election in which meticulously documented and publicized data from credible election monitors clearly and convincingly showed that opposition candidate Edmundo Gonzalez received more than two-thirds of the votes against the regime of Nicolas Maduro.

(2) The Maduro regime has refused to respect the overwhelming choice of the people of Venezuela and subsequently arrested and abused thousands of innocent citizens of Venezuela, including children, for peaceful political participation.

(3) Despite overwhelming evidence that Edmundo Gonzalez won a decisive victory to be Venezuela’s next president, the Maduro regime ignored the results of the election and the law of Venezuela by forcibly refusing to allow Gonzalez to be sworn in on Venezuela’s January 10, 2025, inauguration day.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON INVESTMENT BY UNITED STATES PERSONS IN ENERGY SECTOR OF VENEZUELA UNTIL THE LEGITIMATE RESULTS OF THE JULY 28, 2024, ELECTION ARE RESPECTED.

(a) PROHIBITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the following transactions are prohibited:

(A) Any petroleum-related transaction allowed—

(i) as a result of the Partial Agreement on the Promotion of Political Rights and Electoral Guarantees for All, agreed to by the regime of Nicolas Maduro and the political opposition in Venezuela in October 2023 (commonly known as the “Barbados Agreement”); or

(ii) pursuant to a license issued after entry into that agreement relating to petroleum-related transactions with Venezuela.

(B) Any transaction allowed under General License No. 41 or General License No. 8M of the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury on the day before such date of enactment.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—The prohibitions under paragraph (1) shall apply to the extent provided by law and regulations, orders, directives, or licenses that may be issued pursuant to this section.

(b) NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER.—The President may waive the prohibitions under subsection (a) if the President—

(1) determines that the waiver is in the national security interests of the United States; and

(2) submits in writing to the appropriate congressional committees a report, which may include a classified annex, on that determination and the reasons for the determination.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, may take such actions, including prescribing regulations, as are necessary to implement this section.

(B) IEEPA AUTHORITIES.—For purposes of implementing this section, the Secretary of the Treasury may exercise the authorities provided to the President under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704).

(2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of subsection (a) or any regulation, license, directive, or order issued to carry out that subsection shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(d) RESPONSIBILITY OF OTHER AGENCIES.—All agencies of the United States Government shall take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of this section.

(e) TERMINATION OF PROHIBITION.—The prohibitions under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date on which the President submits to Congress a determination that the regime of Nicolas Maduro has recognized the July 28, 2024, electoral victory of Edmundo Gonzalez and relinquished power to the legitimately democratically elected government in Venezuela or to a transitional government that includes and is agreed to by the legitimately elected political opposition in Venezuela.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen or alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States;

(B) any entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States (including a foreign branch of any such entity); and

(C) any person physically located in the United States.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 39—SUPPORTING THE OBSERVATION OF NATIONAL TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY PREVENTION MONTH DURING THE PERIOD BEGINNING ON JANUARY 1, 2025, AND ENDING ON FEBRUARY 1, 2025, TO RAISE AWARENESS OF, AND OPPOSITION TO, HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 39

Whereas the United States abolished the transatlantic slave trade in 1808, and abolished chattel slavery and prohibited involuntary servitude in 1865;

Whereas, because the people of the United States remain committed to protecting individual freedom, there is a national imperative to eliminate human trafficking and modern slavery, which is commonly considered to mean—

(1) the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of an indi-

vidual through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjecting that individual to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery; or

(2) the inducement of a commercial sex act by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the individual induced to perform that act is younger than 18 years of age;

Whereas forced labor and human trafficking generates revenues of at least \$150,000,000,000 annually worldwide, and there are an estimated 50,000,000 victims of human trafficking and modern slavery across the globe;

Whereas victims of human trafficking are difficult to identify and are subject to manipulation, force, fraud, coercion, and abuse;

Whereas children and youths experiencing homelessness are particularly vulnerable and susceptible to manipulation, making them a prime target for the lucrative criminal industry of human trafficking;

Whereas the Department of Justice has reported that human trafficking and modern slavery has been reported and investigated in each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia;

Whereas the Department of State has reported that the top 3 countries of origin of federally-identified human trafficking victims in the United States in fiscal year 2021 were the United States, Mexico, and Honduras;

Whereas, to help businesses in the United States combat child labor and forced labor in global supply chains, the Department of Labor has identified 159 goods from 78 countries that are made by child labor and forced labor;

Whereas, since 2007, the National Human Trafficking Hotline has identified 100,891 instances of human trafficking involving 197,000 victims;

Whereas there are known risk factors that contribute to youths running away, including domestic violence, child sexual abuse, and neglect, and runaway youths who experience homelessness are potential targets for human trafficking;

Whereas, in 2024, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children received over 27,800 reports of possible child sex trafficking;

Whereas, of the more than 29,000 missing children reported to National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in 2024, 1 in 7 was likely a victim of child sex trafficking;

Whereas today, the average age of child sex trafficking victims reported missing to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is only 15 years old;

Whereas youth experiencing homelessness experience high rates of human trafficking, and 1 in 5 homeless youths is a victim of sex trafficking, labor trafficking, or both;

Whereas 22 percent of youths who experience homelessness were approached for paid sex on their first night of homelessness;

Whereas LGBTQ youth are at higher risk of becoming sex trafficking victims than their peers;

Whereas youths facing homelessness have a lower probability of being trafficked if they have a supportive adult in their life;

Whereas the Administration for Native Americans of the Department of Health and Human Services reports that American Indian, Alaska Native, and Pacific Islander women and girls have a heightened risk for sex trafficking;

Whereas the Department of Justice found that studies on the topic of human trafficking of American Indians and Alaska Natives suggest there are—

(1) high rates of sexual exploitation of Native women and girls;

(2) gaps in data and research on trafficking of American Indian and Alaska Native victims; and

(3) barriers that prevent law enforcement agencies and victim service providers from identifying and responding appropriately to Native victims;

Whereas, according to the Government Accountability Office, from fiscal year 2013 through fiscal year 2016, there were only 14 Federal investigations and 2 Federal prosecutions of human trafficking offenses in Indian country;

Whereas, to combat human trafficking and modern slavery in the United States and globally, the people of the United States, the Federal Government, and State, Tribal, and local governments must be—

(1) aware of the realities of human trafficking and modern slavery; and

(2) dedicated to stopping the horrific enterprises of human trafficking and modern slavery;

Whereas the United States should hold accountable all individuals, groups, organizations, governments, and countries that support, advance, or commit acts of human trafficking and modern slavery;

Whereas, through education, the United States must also work to end human trafficking and modern slavery in all forms in the United States and around the world;

Whereas victims of human trafficking deserve a trauma-informed approach that integrates the pursuit of justice and provision of social services designed to help them escape, and recover from, the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual trauma they endured;

Whereas combating human trafficking requires a whole-of-government effort that rests on a unified and coordinated response among Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies and that places equal value on the prevention of trafficking, the identification and stabilization of victims, and the investigation and prosecution of traffickers;

Whereas laws to prosecute perpetrators of human trafficking and to assist and protect victims of human trafficking and modern slavery have been enacted in the United States, including—

(1) the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.);

(2) title XII of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (Public Law 113-4; 127 Stat. 136);

(3) the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-22; 129 Stat. 227);

(4) sections 910 and 914(e) of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-125; 130 Stat. 239, 274);

(5) section 1298 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (22 U.S.C. 7114);

(6) the Abolish Human Trafficking Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-392; 132 Stat. 5250);

(7) the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-393; 132 Stat. 5265);

(8) the Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-425; 132 Stat. 5472);

(9) the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-427; 132 Stat. 5503);

(10) the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-103; 136 Stat. 840);

(11) the Abolish Trafficking Reauthorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-347; 136 Stat. 6199);

(12) the Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-348; 136 Stat. 6211); and

(13) the End Human Trafficking in Government Contracts Act of 2022 (Public Law 117-211; 136 Stat. 2248);

Whereas the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-22; 129

Stat. 227) established the United States Advisory Council on Human Trafficking to provide a formal platform for survivors of human trafficking to advise and make recommendations on Federal anti-trafficking policies to the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking established by the President;

Whereas the Department of Defense, the General Services Administration, and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration issued a final rule entitled “Federal Acquisition Regulation; Ending Trafficking in Persons” (80 Fed. Reg. 4967 (January 29, 2015)) to implement Executive Order 13627 (41 U.S.C. 3101 note; relating to strengthening protections against trafficking in persons in Federal contracts), which clarifies the policy of the United States on combating trafficking in persons as outlined in the Federal Acquisition Regulation by strengthening the prohibition on contractors from charging employee recruitment fees;

Whereas, although such laws and regulations are currently in force, it is essential to increase public awareness, particularly among individuals who are most likely to come into contact with victims of human trafficking and modern slavery, regarding conditions and dynamics of human trafficking and modern slavery, precisely because traffickers use techniques that are designed to severely limit self-reporting and evade law enforcement;

Whereas January 1 is the anniversary of the effective date of the Emancipation Proclamation;

Whereas February 1 is—

(1) the anniversary of the date on which President Abraham Lincoln signed the joint resolution sending the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States to the States for ratification to forever declare, “Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction”; and

(2) a date that has long been celebrated as National Freedom Day, as described in section 124 of title 36, United States Code; and

Whereas, under the authority of Congress to enforce the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States “by appropriate legislation”, Congress, through the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), updated the post-Civil War involuntary servitude and slavery statutes and adopted an approach of victim protection, vigorous prosecution, and prevention of human trafficking, commonly known as the “3P” approach: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports—

(1) observing National Trafficking and Modern Slavery Prevention Month during the period beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on February 1, 2025, to recognize the vital role that the people of the United States have in ending human trafficking and modern slavery;

(2) marking the observation of National Trafficking and Modern Slavery Prevention Month with appropriate programs and activities, culminating in the observance on February 1, 2025, of National Freedom Day, as described in section 124 of title 36, United States Code;

(3) urging continued partnerships with Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies, as well as survivors of human trafficking, social service providers, and nonprofit organizations to address human trafficking with a collaborative, victim-centered approach; and

(4) all other efforts to prevent, eradicate, and raise awareness of, and opposition to, human trafficking and modern slavery.

SENATE RESOLUTION 40—COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF THE AUSCHWITZ EXTERMINATION CAMP IN NAZI-OCCUPIED POLAND AND INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Ms. ROSEN (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 40

Whereas United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/7 (2005) designated January 27 of each year as an International Day of Commemoration in memory of victims of the Holocaust;

Whereas, during World War II, the Nazi regime and its collaborators systematically murdered 6,000,000 Jews and millions of other individuals;

Whereas the Auschwitz extermination camp complex in Nazi-occupied Poland, which included a killing center at Birkenau, was the largest death camp complex established by the Nazi regime;

Whereas, on January 27, 1945, the Auschwitz extermination camp was liberated by Allied Forces, after almost 5 years of murder, rape, and torture at the camp;

Whereas nearly 1,300,000 innocent civilians were deported to Auschwitz from their homes across Eastern and Western Europe, particularly from Hungary, Poland, and France;

Whereas nearly 1,100,000 innocent civilians were murdered at the Auschwitz extermination camp between 1940 and 1945;

Whereas at least 960,000 of the nearly 1,100,000 murdered people were Jewish;

Whereas the more than 100,000 other victims who perished at Auschwitz included non-Jewish Poles, Romani people, Soviet civilians and prisoners of war, Afro-Germans, Jehovah’s Witnesses, people with disabilities, gay men and women, and other ethnic minorities;

Whereas these innocent civilians were subjected to torture, forced labor, starvation, rape, medical experiments, and separation from loved ones;

Whereas the names of many of these innocent individuals who perished have been lost forever;

Whereas the Auschwitz extermination camp symbolizes the extraordinary brutality of the Holocaust;

Whereas the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum serves as our Nation’s memorial to the victims of the Holocaust and teaches the history and lessons of the Holocaust to individuals from all walks of life in the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States must never forget the genocide and terrible crimes against humanity committed at the Auschwitz extermination camp;

Whereas the people of the United States must educate future generations to promote understanding of the dangers of intolerance in order to prevent similar injustices, including acts of violent antisemitism, from happening again;

Whereas there are only approximately 220,000 Holocaust survivors who are still living and it is more important now than ever to share their collective histories and stories;

Whereas, in recent years, there has been an increase in the number and intensity of antisemitic incidents in the United States and around the world;

Whereas, since the October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorist attack in Israel, there have been

more than 10,000 antisemitic incidents in the United States;

Whereas hate crime statistics collected by the Federal Bureau of Investigation demonstrate a 63 percent increase in antisemitic incidents in the United States from 2022 to 2023;

Whereas, in 2018, the United States experienced the single deadliest attack against the Jewish community in the history of the United States with the murder of 11 individuals at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and

Whereas, especially in a period of rising antisemitism, commemoration of the liberation of the Auschwitz extermination camp will instill in all people of the United States a greater awareness of the Holocaust and knowledge of the horrors brought upon by the systematic murder of 6,000,000 Jews and millions of other innocent individuals by the Nazi regime: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates January 27, 2025, as the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz extermination camp by Allied Forces during World War II and as International Holocaust Remembrance Day;

(2) calls on all people of the United States to remember the 1,100,000 innocent victims murdered at the Auschwitz extermination camp as part of the Holocaust, the 6,000,000 Jews killed during the Holocaust, and all of the victims of the Nazi reign of terror;

(3) honors the legacy of the survivors of the Holocaust and of the Auschwitz extermination camp;

(4) calls on the people of the United States to continue to work toward tolerance, peace, and justice and to continue to work to end all genocide and persecution; and

(5) recommits to combatting all forms of antisemitism.

SENATE RESOLUTION 41—AUTHORIZING THE SERGEANT AT ARMS AND DOORKEEPER OF THE SENATE TO CONDUCT QUARTERLY BLOOD DONATION DRIVES DURING THE 119TH CONGRESS

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. PADILLA) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 41

Resolved,

SECTION 1. QUARTERLY SENATE BLOOD DONATION DRIVES.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—During the 119th Congress, the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate (referred to in this resolution as the “Sergeant at Arms”) is authorized to conduct a blood donation drive once every quarter of a calendar year, in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) DATE SELECTION.—The Sergeant at Arms shall, in consultation with the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, select the date for each drive conducted under paragraph (1).

(3) SELECTION OF LOCATIONS AND PARTNERING BLOOD DONATION ORGANIZATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Sergeant at Arms shall identify and, with the approval of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, select a location and a partnering blood donation organization for each drive conducted under paragraph (1).

(B) MEMBER REQUESTS.—In identifying appropriate partnering blood donation organizations under subparagraph (A), the Sergeant at Arms may consider a request from

a Senator for a specific blood donation organization.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Physical preparations for the conduct of, and the implementation of, each drive authorized under subsection (a)(1) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Sergeant at Arms, in consultation with the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, may prescribe.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 99-93, as amended by Public Law 99-151, appoints the following Senators as members of the United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control: the Honorable JOHN CORNYN, of Texas, Chairman; the Honorable CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, of Iowa; the Honorable JAMES RISCH, of Idaho; the Honorable BERNIE MORENO, of Ohio.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 28; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume Executive Calendar No. 6, Sean Duffy, under the order of January 25; further, that the Senate recess following disposition of the Duffy nomination until 2 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be

immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:47 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate January 27, 2025:

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

SCOTT BESSENT, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, January 28, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JANUARY 29

- 9 a.m.
Committee on the Judiciary
Business meeting to consider the nomination of Pamela Bondi, of Florida, to be Attorney General, Department of Justice.
SH-216
- 10 a.m.
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Business meeting to consider committee rules for the 119th Congress; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nomination of Howard Lutnick, of New York, to be Secretary of Commerce.
SR-253

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., of California, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.
SD-215

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Kelly Loeffler, of Georgia, to be Administrator of the Small Business Administration.
SR-428A

3:30 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging
To hold hearings to examine making Washington work for seniors, focusing on fighting to end inflation and achieve fiscal sanity.
SD-106

JANUARY 30

Time to be announced

Committee on the Budget
Business meeting to consider the nomination of Russell Vought, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.
S-216

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Daniel Driscoll, of North Carolina, to be Secretary of the Army, Department of Defense.
SD-G50

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Kashyap Patel, of Nevada, to be Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice.
SH-216

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., of Cali-

fornia, to be Secretary of Health and Human Services.
SD-562

Select Committee on Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Tulsi Gabbard, of Hawaii, to be Director of National Intelligence; to be immediately followed by a closed hearing in SH-219.
SD-106

10:25 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Elise Stefanik, of New York, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, and to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.
SD-419

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the influence of the People's Republic of China at home and abroad, focusing on recommendations for policy makers.
SD-419

FEBRUARY 4

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence
To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.
SH-219

FEBRUARY 5

2:30 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence
To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.
SH-219

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

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate confirmed the nomination of Scott Bessent, of South Carolina, to be Secretary of the Treasury.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S383–S399

Measures Introduced: Seven bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 257–263, S.J. Res. 7, and S. Res. 39–41. **Page S395**

Measures Passed:

National Trafficking and Modern Slavery Prevention Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 39, supporting the observation of National Trafficking and Modern Slavery Prevention Month during the period beginning on January 1, 2025, and ending on February 1, 2025, to raise awareness of, and opposition to, human trafficking and modern slavery. **Page S395**

International Holocaust Remembrance Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 40, commemorating the 80th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz extermination camp in Nazi-occupied Poland and International Holocaust Remembrance Day. **Page S395**

Blood Donation Drives: Senate agreed to S. Res. 41, authorizing the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate to conduct quarterly blood donation drives during the 119th Congress. **Page S395**

Appointments:

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control: The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 99–93, as amended by Public Law 99–151, appointed the following Senators as members of the United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control: Senators Cornyn (Chairman), Grassley, Risch, and Moreno. **Page S399**

Duffy Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Sean Duffy, of Wisconsin, to be Secretary of Transportation. **Page S392**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By a unanimous vote of 97 yeas (Vote No. 20), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S391–92**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, under the order of Saturday, January 25, 2025, at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, January 27, 2025. **Page S399**

Zeldin Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Lee Zeldin, of New York, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. **Page S392**

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, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of H.R. 23, to impose sanctions with respect to the International Criminal Court engaged in any effort to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute any protected person of the United States and its allies. **Page S392**

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S392**

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

Burgum Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Douglas Burgum, of North Dakota, to be Secretary of the Interior. **Page S392**

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, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Lee Zeldin, of New York, to

be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. **Page S392**

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S392**

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

Wright Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Christopher Wright, of Colorado, to be Secretary of Energy. **Page S392**

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, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Douglas Burgum, of North Dakota, to be Secretary of the Interior. **Page S392**

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S392**

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

Collins Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Douglas Collins, of Georgia, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs. **Page S392**

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, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition

of the nomination of Christopher Wright, of Colorado, to be Secretary of Energy. **Pages S392–93**

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S392**

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

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 68 yeas to 29 nays (Vote No. EX. 19), Scott Bessent, of South Carolina, to be Secretary of the Treasury. **Pages S383–91, S399**

Executive Communications: **Pages S393–95**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S395–96**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S396–99**

Additional Statements: **Page S393**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—20) **Pages S391–92**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 12 noon and adjourned at 6:47 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 28, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S399.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House will meet in Pro Forma session at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, January 28, 2025.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine defense innovation and acquisition reform, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine the Panama Canal and its impact on U.S. trade and national security, focusing on fees and foreign influence, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the VA's Community Care Program, 10:30 a.m., SR–418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, January 28

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Sean Duffy, of Wisconsin, to be Secretary of Transportation, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 12 noon.

At 2:15 p.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 23, Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act.

(Senate will recess following disposition of the nomination of Sean Duffy until 2 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

11 a.m., Tuesday, January 28

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 11 a.m.



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