

reduction, and just about any other issue you can think of over a long and distinguished career in public service.

We all want to thank Senator JOHANNIS for his loyal and dedicated service to the Senate and to the people of Nebraska. We wish MIKE and Stephanie the best as they look forward to their next adventure together.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to join in the remarks of the distinguished Republican leader, but add to that that Stephanie is one of the funniest people Landra and I have ever known. She has a great sense of humor. What the Republican leader laid out is perfect, except this woman has a sense of humor that is really quite remarkable.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Will the Senator withhold his request?

Mr. REID. Yes, Mr. President.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. JOHANNIS. Mr. President, just a word or two to both leaders. Thank you so much for your kind words. I also want to say thank you for mentioning my wife Stephanie. This has been a remarkable partnership for a lot of years, and I could not have done what I did without her. So thank you to Senator MCCONNELL. Mr. Leader, thank you. It has been an honor to serve in this body. I will have more to say next week in my farewell speech, but I did not want this day to go by without expressing my appreciation. Thank you.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### NOMINATION OF FRANKLIN M. ORR, JR., TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Franklin M. Orr, Jr., of California, to be Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 10 a.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The assistant majority leader.

#### CHICAGO NURSE CARES FOR EBOLA PATIENTS IN LIBERIA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the holiday rush is underway and millions of Americans are decorating, shopping, and preparing to spend Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa with their loved ones. I want to draw attention to one woman from Illinois who is doing something very different.

Janet Teasley is a registered nurse in Chicago. She has volunteered to spend her holiday season in Liberia treating patients with the potentially deadly Ebola virus.

When Janet Teasley first told her family and coworkers of her plan, she says she encountered some resistance. One doctor with whom she works was only half kidding when he said he thought she was crazy. But once he realized she was serious, the doctor told Teasley he admired her. I share that admiration.

The U.S. Agency for International Development estimates that nearly 16,000 people have contracted the Ebola virus. Nearly 6,000 have died. Today, it is estimated that 7,000 people in Liberia, where Janet Teasley is volunteering, have Ebola. She is helping some of the neediest patients in that country that has been the hardest hit by this disease.

Although Ebola has been contained so far here in the United States, the outbreak is still raging in parts of West Africa. Teasley is part of a wave of U.S. health care workers being recruited to help stop the spread of the disease in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and now Mali.

Teasley got involved through AmericaCares, which is one of about 150 nonprofits working with our government to recruit workers nationwide.

Teasley has been a nurse for 17 years, working in emergency care and infectious disease units, most recently at Holy Cross Hospital in Chicago—a hospital which I know well in the inner city, which serves some of the poorest families in our town.

Now she will spend 8 weeks in Buchanan, Liberia, training and then treating patients. She explains:

I came here for a purpose, and I want to see that through. . . . I honestly believe no man is an island; each man's death diminishes me. That's why I became a nurse.

Teasley's daughter Danica Miller wasn't surprised by her mom. She says for leisure, her mom doesn't read novels but pours over books about infectious diseases.

Despite her family's support, Teasley is conscious of the increased risk she faces. In fact, many of those who have fallen ill have been health care workers themselves. Teasley is just sure she is not going to be one of them. She says

she is confident in herself and her team and that she will be able to come home safely.

To stop this epidemic, we need many things. First and foremost we need more people like Nurse Teasley. The Federal Government is seeking medical professionals to work in the 23 Ebola treatment units being established in Liberia. While the number of volunteers increased steadily this fall, it did drop off a bit when there was confusion over quarantine policies for returning medical workers. With time and perspective, this confusion seems to be settling. Illinois has brought its quarantine policy in line with that of the Centers for Disease Control. With a scientifically grounded and carefully measured approach, the hope is health care workers with the same passion and courage as Nurse Janet Teasley will volunteer to help those in need.

I met with Tom Frieden, Director of the CDC, a couple of weeks ago. He and members of the international public health community maintain that the way to control the spread of Ebola is to contain the virus at its source.

To prepare for the possibility of Ebola patients here in America and to help with containment overseas, the Obama administration has requested \$6.18 billion in emergency funding, including \$1.83 billion for the CDC. I support the President.

Janet is a valuable and commendable part of this effort, and I hope people will hear her story and the stories of people like her and support the efforts of the United States in Liberia.

#### VOICE ON ORR NOMINATION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question now occurs on the Orr nomination.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Franklin M. Orr, Jr., of California, to be Under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy?

The nomination was confirmed.

#### NOMINATION OF JOSEPH S. HEZIR TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Joseph S. Hezir, of Virginia, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Energy.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There will now be 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the nomination.

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I am opposed to the nomination of Joseph S. Hezir for the position of Chief Financial Officer, CFO, at the Department of Energy, DOE. The CFO position plays an influential policy role within the DOE, overseeing all financial matters and ensuring the successful implementation of Departmentwide policies. Given that Mr. Hezir, as recently as 2 years ago, lobbied the Obama administration and Congress in favor of Yucca