

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 240, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 5, H.R. 240, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess from 12:45 p.m. until 1:45 p.m.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Are we in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are on the motion to proceed.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I will be speaking on the bill before us.

Madam President, we are just days away from an unthinkable government shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security. A government shutdown of the Department whose mission is to protect the citizens of this country is reckless and dangerous while we are under threat of attack by terrorist groups.

What kind of message does it send to ISIS, to cyber criminals, and to criminal drug gangs if Congress can't keep the Department of Homeland Security open?

This weekend we learned that a terrorist group from Somalia, al-Shabaab, released an online video calling for attacks on the Mall of America in Minnesota, as well as malls in Canada and England.

Just yesterday we learned that three Brooklyn, NY, men were arrested for

plotting to travel to Syria to join ISIS. If they weren't successful in getting to Syria, they allegedly planned to commit an act of terrorism in the United States, and one even offered to kill President Obama if ordered to do so.

The role of the Department of Homeland Security in protecting our country from these threats and from so many others cannot be overstated. It is DHS that is working with State and local officials in Minnesota to coordinate a response to the Mall of America threat, and it is DHS and the Secret Service that help provide the counterterrorism and intelligence-gathering efforts that led to the arrests of the Brooklyn men who wanted to do harm in this country.

Referencing yesterday's arrests in Brooklyn, New York City Police Commissioner Bill Bratton said that this is not the time to engage in activities that would threaten our counterterrorism capabilities and effectively hold our counterterrorism agencies hostage to political machinations. This is not the time to be engaging in political rhetoric and political grandstanding.

I think Commissioner Bratton is right. Our Nation is already on high alert for terror threats after attacks in Sydney, Australia, and Ottawa, Canada, and in Paris. The Mall of America threat and the Brooklyn arrests reinforce the fact that we need our law enforcement community operating on all cylinders. Sadly, these aren't isolated threats.

A few weeks ago I spoke with the deputy commissioner of the New York City Police Department. He told me about the many terror attacks that have been thwarted in New York City since 9/11. He credited DHS, the funding, and programs that are coordinated through DHS and the personnel there for helping New York to prevent attacks from happening.

I have heard the same thing at home in New Hampshire from our law enforcement and first responders. I was in the town of Hampton, which is a coastal community, on Monday of this week. They talked about the importance of DHS support in developing a unified command for all of law enforcement in New Hampshire. They talked about the importance of the fusion center that is funded through the Department of Homeland Security because of the intelligence-gathering they do there and how they share that information with law enforcement agencies all across New Hampshire. Then they took me in and showed me a diagram of a human trafficking case that they are working on with the help of the Department of Homeland Security.

So this is not just about the big cities in the United States, it is about our rural communities, and it is about States across this country that rely on the Department of Homeland Security to help with their internal security. Yet here we are, less than 2 days away from shutting down the Department of Homeland Security because of unrelated ideological disagreements.

I am, however, very encouraged by recent developments here in the Senate, with yesterday's 98-to-2 vote to allow the Senate at some point in the future—hopefully sometime today—to pass a clean, full-year funding bill for DHS. I again applaud Senators McCONNELL and REID for their efforts to get us to this point. I think we need leaders who are willing to work together, who are willing to encourage us here in the Senate. We saw that in the last few days with Senators McCONNELL and REID.

Once the Senate acts, however, we will need the House of Representatives to join us in putting aside our ideological and political differences and passing a bill without controversial riders, a bill that will fund the Department of Homeland Security.

As we have discussed in this Chamber, there are disagreements about immigration and about the President's Executive action. I am certainly happy to have debate about that. I know there are others who are happy to have a debate. But first we need to fund the Department of Homeland Security. We need to put safety and security ahead of our ideological differences. We are just 2 days away from a devastating shutdown of DHS. We do not have time to waste. I certainly hope that we will act quickly here and that the House will also act quickly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

NET NEUTRALITY

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, a battle has been raging online in the past year. Millions of citizens, companies, innovators, and entrepreneurs have been sounding an alarm calling us to electronic arms. These 21st-century Netizens took to the street and they took to the Net. They raised their voices and demanded that the FCC protect the world's greatest platform for communications and commerce.

Today we declare victory. Today we say the economy and the free expression of ideas depend on Net neutrality. Today we say an open and free Internet is as important as keeping our air and water clean and our roads and highways safe. Today we say Net neutrality is here to stay. Today is Internet freedom and innovation day.

Just today the Federal Communications Commission is making historic decisions to enshrine Net neutrality protections. The Commission is voting to use its power to protect the tremendous power of the Internet. This battle for Net neutrality means that the Internet is protected for decades to come. It is protected for all the students and startups, for all the businesses and online buyers, for all of the inventors, the innovators, and the Internet users.

By banning paid prioritization, blocking, and throttling, the FCC is applying the principles of nondiscrimination—which is what Net neutrality really is—nondiscrimination to the