

is also a crowning of the principle of consensual solutions adopted by Tunisia”;

Whereas the Norwegian Nobel Committee stated on October 10, 2015, “The broad-based national dialogue that the Quartet succeeded in establishing countered the spread of violence in Tunisia . . . the prize is intended as an encouragement to the Tunisian people, who despite major challenges have laid the groundwork for a national fraternity which the Committee hopes will serve as an example to be followed by other countries”;

Whereas Tunisia continues to face serious threats to its security from violent extremist groups operating within Tunisia as well as in neighboring countries;

Whereas a terrorist attack on November 24, 2015 on Tunisia’s Presidential Guard killed 12 people and represents another effort to undermine democracy and stability in Tunisia;

Whereas Tunisia faces economic challenges, including high inflation and high unemployment, especially among young Tunisians;

Whereas the United States is committed to continuing a strong economic partnership with Tunisia as it undertakes reforms to transform its economy to meet the aspirations of all of its citizens;

Whereas the United States and Tunisia have enjoyed friendly relations for more than 200 years;

Whereas in accordance with the United States-Tunisia Strategic Partnership, both countries are dedicated to working together to promote economic development and business opportunities in Tunisia, education for the advancement of long-term development in Tunisia, and increased security cooperation to address common threats in Tunisia and across the region;

Whereas in July 2015, President Obama designated Tunisia a Major Non-NATO Ally;

Whereas Tunisia is a member of the Global Coalition to Counter the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL);

Whereas at the second United States-Tunisia Strategic Dialogue in November 2015, Secretary Kerry reaffirmed the historic friendship and growing strategic partnership between the United States and Tunisia and praised the role of civil society organizations in Tunisia’s democratic transition;

Whereas the United States Government allocated approximately \$580,000,000 in foreign assistance during fiscal years 2011 through 2014, which is 10 ten times the bilateral assistance appropriated for Tunisia during the previous 4 fiscal years;

Whereas the President’s Budget Request for fiscal year 2016 included a substantial increase in bilateral assistance to support Tunisia’s democratic transition;

Whereas it is in America’s interest to see that a pluralist democracy and a vibrant economy develop in Tunisia;

Whereas the United States should provide a level of funding to strongly assist and reinforce Tunisia’s transition to democracy, stability, and prosperity;

Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Tunisian National Dialogue Quartet on winning the 2015 Nobel Peace Prize;

(2) commends the leaders of The Tunisian General Labor Union; The Tunisian Confederation of Industry, Trade, and Handicrafts; The Tunisian Human Rights League; and The Tunisian Order of Lawyers for negotiating solutions to political crises;

(3) commends Tunisian political leaders for their willingness to compromise and work together in the interest of the Tunisian people;

(4) encourages the Government of Tunisia to build upon its successes and move swiftly

to implement necessary political and economic reforms that will benefit the Tunisian people and consolidate Tunisia’s democratic transition; and

(5) reaffirms the commitment of the United States to support the Government of Tunisia and its people as they continue on the path to democracy and fulfill their desire for a stable and prosperous country.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2920. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2393, to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to repeal country of origin labeling requirements with respect to beef, pork, and chicken, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 2920.** Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 2393, to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to repeal country of origin labeling requirements with respect to beef, pork, and chicken, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end, add the following:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ . REPEAL OF DUPLICATIVE MANDATORY INSPECTION PROGRAM.

(a) FOOD, CONSERVATION, AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008.—Effective June 18, 2008, section 11016 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246; 122 Stat. 2130) is repealed.

(b) AGRICULTURAL ACT OF 2014.—Effective February 7, 2014, section 12106 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79; 128 Stat. 981) is repealed.

(c) APPLICATION.—The Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) and the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) shall be applied and administered as if the provisions of law struck by this section had not been enacted.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following disposition of the McDonough nomination, the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 373 and 374; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that following the disposition of the nominations, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

#### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2015

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it ad-

journal until 10 a.m., Tuesday, December 8; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the conference report to accompany S. 1177; finally, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture vote with respect to the conference report to accompany S. 1177 occur at 11:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned after the resumption of legislative session, following the disposition of the Etim nomination.

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

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

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

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Travis Randall McDonough, of Tennessee, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 30 minutes of debate.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today we will vote on the nomination of Travis McDonough to be a Federal district judge in the Eastern District of Tennessee. He was nominated over a year ago, and his nomination was voted out of the Judiciary Committee by unanimous voice vote nearly 5 months ago. Despite having the support of his home State Republican Senators, Mr. McDonough’s nomination has nevertheless been held up by Republican leadership for no good reason.