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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, January 25, 2016, at 2 p.m.

## Senate

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2016

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM COTTON, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, who has set our fragile years in the heart of Your eternity, we find gladness and peace under the shadow of Your wings.

Today provide our lawmakers with wisdom to embrace the right priorities. May they strive to sacrifice for the things that will live beyond their years so that history will celebrate their foresight and courage. Grant that their lives and labor will reflect Your greatness, compassion, and love. Lord, keep them from embracing a false patriotism that would render unto Caesar what belongs to You. Stir them to new heights of excellence as You open their eyes to the unfolding of Your loving providence.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, January 20, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM COTTON, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. COTTON thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

### AMERICAN SAFE ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Republican leader has said that he is going to bring and, in fact, has brought to the floor the House-passed refugee bill, as he calls it. It is, of course, an immigration bill. Yesterday he said that the debate over the bill should be based on "facts and common sense." I agree with that. The facts speak for themselves. Our enemy is clearly defined. ISIS is the defined organization. It is a terrorist organization that poses a threat to the United States, women, children, and families fleeing persecution. They are not the enemy; ISIS is the enemy. We should be focusing all of

our efforts on defeating our real enemy, the brutal, evil ISIS. Yet the bill the Republican leader is bringing to the floor scapegoats refugees who are fleeing war and torture instead of creating real solutions to keep Americans safe.

You don't have to take my word for it. The junior Senator from Arizona has said he will oppose the bill because it is "intended to knock out all refugee entrants and I'm not there." So says the junior Senator from Arizona.

National security experts from Democratic and Republican administrations have warned against advancing bills such as this.

Former Secretary Gates is such a good person. I enjoyed working with him very much. Yesterday he said—in words much stronger than I am going to say right now—that the Republicans running for President don't understand the issue. He is much stronger and more firm in saying that what they are talking about is ridiculous. By the way, he is a Republican.

President Obama has already made it very clear that he will veto this legislation. As written, this bill will not be signed into law. Some say it is a waste of our time. By advancing this bill, Republicans are creating a terrible distraction for the sake of embracing the hateful rhetoric, vitriol of the Republican Party's standard bearers, Donald Trump and TED CRUZ.

I guess this should come as no surprise to anyone. Over and over again Republicans remain committed to

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



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