

because they had a gun to their head where they were told it is either this or nothing. But that is not what the Senate is all about. The Senate is the institution where one man or woman, standing up for an idea or an ideal, can see their way to make change. We all have that power in this institution. We have the power to make maybe what is the passion of the House at the moment be more tempered in this body. It is the nature of how the Founders structured our two legislative bodies.

It is time for us to live up to the highest calling of the Senate and take care of the 3.5 million people of Puerto Rico, who are U.S. citizens, in the right way. So where Congresswoman VELÁZQUEZ or any of my other colleagues in the House felt they had no choice and no options, that is not what the Senate is all about. That is why the Senate rules permit even the minority at times—although it had been structured in such a way to make it very hard, there are still ways, if we choose as Members, to cast that vote.

So as to the July 1 deadline, we have provisions. This provision in the bill is probably the only one I like, at least the way it is written, with a retroactive stay. Secondly, my colleagues didn't have much of a choice, so they felt that it is either this or nothing. And if it is nothing, then there are real problems. I don't accept the "this or nothing." I accept it can be better, as Senator CANTWELL has suggested, and I believe that can take place. That happens tomorrow when we come back into session.

I hope there will be a vote against cloture to give us that opportunity. If we fail—if enough Members want to vote for an undemocratic bill that goes against some of the very Republican principles of being true to the Founders of the Constitution and the architects of our great democracy that suggests that consent of the governed is essential, and if they believe, at the end of the day—again, I know many of them have an aversion to corporate welfare—then I would hope they would be true to their principles and vote against cloture.

For the Democratic side, I would hope the very essence of our belief in rising wages and overtime protections and also the view of the consent of the governed—we are strong advocates of democracy—and making sure of the environmental protections we fight so hard on—those should not be denied to the people of Puerto Rico. We can vote against cloture and create a process for some reasonable amendments. I am sure there can be agreements to come to that, to have a chance for the people of Puerto Rico to have a say and make the bill better by virtue of a democratic process in the Senate.

In the absence of that, if we fail, there is a motion that is available to table an amendment that is in the tree in order to offer another amendment. I hope my colleagues, in a bipartisan fashion, if they think it is so important

to get cloture—which I don't agree with in terms of timing; the July 1 deadline is dealt with; the reasons others voted for it are amply understood—then there is an opportunity to vote to table one of the amendments that are on the table now and, therefore, create an opening for an amendment where we could at least have that debate and have that opportunity. Those are available, as I understand it, from the Parliamentarian under the rules.

I hope we can achieve that moment. It would be one of the bright moments of the Senate versus one of the darkest moments, I think, if we continue on the road we are on.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ROUNDS. 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. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall vote No. 111 on confirmation of PN576. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

RECOGNIZING HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, in honor of the National Park Service's 100th birthday year, I want to recognize Hot Springs National Park in Hot Springs, AR. Hot Springs is a world famous tourist destination and it is not hard to see why. Whether it is to take advantage of the many recreational activities like hiking or boating or to bathe in the hot, therapeutic waters found in the area, guests have traveled from across the country and around the world to visit Hot Springs. In an effort to preserve its unique hot springs, Hot Springs first became a protected area in 1832 when Congress declared the area a reservation. It was officially designated as a national park in 1921.

In the years after it became a reservation, Hot Springs experienced extensive economic growth and majestic bathhouses replaced the rudimentary wooden structures surrounding the hot water springs. The remaining bathhouse row structures in Hot Springs National Park are now part of a National Historic Landmark District that sees thousands of visitors each year.

But Hot Springs has more than just unique natural features. Over the last century, they have hosted Major League Baseball spring training. They are also home to Oaklawn horse racing, and the notorious gangster Al Capone is even rumored to have spent time in town. Finally, former President Bill Clinton graduated from Hot Springs High School.

Hot Springs National Park is a true Arkansas treasure, and the surrounding town makes it that much better. This park has a storied history, but its best days are ahead of it. The hot springs are still flowing, the bathhouses are still open, and the scenery remains breathtaking. In honor of the National Park Service's 100th birthday year, I encourage you to go out and find your park.

APPOINTMENT OF ROSE GOTTEMOELLER TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATO

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, on June 27th, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg appointed Under Secretary of State Rose Gottemoeller to become the next Deputy Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. I am pleased to see such a well-respected and qualified individual take up a critically important post within NATO.

Rose Gottemoeller has distinguished herself at the State Department as the consummate public servant. Her work in the State Department has focused on pragmatically confronting some of the most critical international security issues the United States faces, including nonproliferation, arms control, and nuclear security. She is best known for her role in the New START Treaty, when she represented the United States as its chief negotiator. She has been confirmed by the Senate for two different positions at State, first as Assistant Secretary of State for Verification and Compliance and currently as Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security. In these roles, Rose has been integral to ensuring that American national security priorities are realized, and I personally could not think of a more competent individual who has the requisite experience and expertise to be the next Deputy Secretary General.

Under Secretary Gottemoeller will be taking up her post at a critical time for Europe. NATO's core mission is safeguarding the freedom and security of its 28 members. The freedom and security of Europe today is threatened by Russian aggression on its eastern flank and from the instability and violence emanating from the Middle East and North Africa. The United States and our NATO allies must stand together as one in order to achieve national and international security against these threats.

I would like to conclude my remarks by saying, for the record, that I myself have had numerous opportunities to