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Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, who extends daily to our lawmakers compassionate love, we praise Your Holy Name.

Lord, in a challenging world where we often find ourselves waiting to exhale, You remain our shelter for every storm. Relieve the shadows of pessimism and cynicism, as we face a world often filled with despair.

Lord, bring our Senators from the fatigue of doubts to the buoyancy of hope. Make their lives unflickering lights that transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. Give them an unflinching certainty that You are Sovereign.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 3 minutes in morning business.

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

119TH CONGRESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, as the 119th Congress kicks off, I look forward to continuing my work for Iowans. As President pro tempore of the Senate, Iowa is No. 1 with my leadership.

I look forward to working with my colleague Senator JONI ERNST to represent the people of Iowa and bring their views to the policymaking tables.

The two of us will work with our colleagues—Congresswoman MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS, Congresswoman ASHLEY HINSON, Congressman ZACH NUNN, and Congressman RANDY FEENSTRA—across the Capitol to represent the good people of Iowa. We are ready to roll up our sleeves and get to work.

I just emphasized the Iowa delegation putting Iowa first. I do that at the same time we remember the voter mandate of the last election to put America first. We will work with President Trump to bring that goal to fruition.

ORTHODOX CHRISTMAS

Mr. GRASSLEY. On another point, yesterday, January 6, was Christmas Day for many Christians of the Orthodox faith. But during the Soviet Union—if you remember the history of the Soviet Union—Christmas had to be celebrated in secret, lest the communist authorities would find out and you would be punished.

The godless Soviet regime encouraged celebrating the new year with a visit from Grandfather Frost, a secular Russian folk character, in place of “Jolly Old St. Nick.” In a repeat of history, “KGB Dictator Putin”—now President Putin, supposedly—banned Santa Claus in occupied Ukraine. Christmas caroling, Nativity scenes, and any mention of St. Nicholas were reportedly banned in Russian-occupied Ukraine for fear of spreading Western influence. A video recently came out showing the Russian military shooting down Santa’s sled over Russia to the praise of Grandfather Frost. This is a war on Christmas, communist style.

In Russia today, religious expression outside of the state-controlled church is discouraged. And in Russian-occupied Ukraine, all Protestant churches have been closed. The head of the Russian church is a KGB guy who answers

directly to KGB Putin. It is no wonder, then, that only 16 percent of Russians say religion is very important to them, and only 7 percent attend church weekly. It is also no wonder that most Ukrainians chose to celebrate Christmas with the West on the 25th, even while under rocket fire from Russia.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING JIMMY CARTER

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, later today, President Jimmy Carter will arrive here at the Capitol for the last time. He will lie in state until Thursday in the Capitol Rotunda so Americans can pay final respects to our Nation’s 39th President.

It is the great American story—how a man or woman can rise from humble origins to the highest levels of government or business or academia—and it was Jimmy Carter’s story.

Born in 1924 in Plains, GA, he grew up on a peanut farm, in a house that had no running water or electricity. President was probably not the first thing people would have thought of when considering his future career. Most might have thought that he would end up running the family farm, as, indeed, he did for a while.

But he decided to also dip his toe into politics, and, within 14 years, he had gone from taking up office in the

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



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Georgia State Senate to taking up office as President of the United States.

His Presidency was notable for a number of things, including successful brokering of a peace agreement between Egypt and Israel, an agreement that stands to this day. But it was, perhaps, his post-Presidency that came to define his legacy the most.

Jimmy Carter left office in 1981, and during the four decades that followed, he dedicated himself to making a difference to the causes of peace and human rights and to improving the wellbeing of his fellow man. Together, with his wife Rosalynn, he founded the Carter Center, which, among other things, works for the eradication of disease in some of the poorest areas of the globe. Among the center's successes is the almost whole eradication of Guinea worm disease, a painful and devastating tropical disease whose cases numbered in the millions at the time the Carter Center was beginning its work. Through the first 10 months of 2024, there were just seven reported cases—an incredible legacy for anyone, but just part of President Carter's.

President Carter is also known for his work with Habitat for Humanity to provide affordable housing for those in need. And I do mean his work. President Carter didn't just lend his name or image to Habitat. He built houses. He nailed it, drilled it. He installed toilets. Well into his nineties, you could find him in a hardhat on worksites, participating like any other volunteer.

In one early Habitat project, he and Rosalynn worked in New York City. The former First Lady and the former President spent the week sleeping in the basement of a church with other volunteers—a characteristic example of unpretentiousness from a couple who lived all their lives in a modest house in Plains, GA, that they built long before the Presidency.

All told, the Carter Work Project at Habitat for Humanity has worked on 4,447 homes in 14 countries, including homes in Eagle Butte, in my State of South Dakota, which the Carters worked on during a 1994 trip to our State. It is unknown how many more homes have been built by volunteers who came to know about Habitat for Humanity through President Jimmy Carter.

It would be wrong to mention Jimmy Carter's years of service without mentioning what animated them. Jimmy Carter saw his service as a natural outgrowth of his faith in Jesus Christ. "One of the best ways to practice my faith as a Christian," he would say, "is to participate in Habitat projects every year." His life was about putting his religious principles into practice, whether that was through Habitat for Humanity or through his other work.

And, of course, anyone attracted by his example who wanted to learn more about the Christian faith could head down to Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, GA, to his Sunday school class, which he taught into his nineties.

Madam President, I cannot close without mentioning Jimmy Carter's 77-year-long marriage to his beloved wife Rosalynn, who preceded him in death a year ago. And while I join all Americans in mourning the death of President Carter, I rejoice at the thought that he and Rosalynn are again together before the face of their Father.

My thoughts and prayers are with the Carters' children—Jack, Chip, Jeff, and Amy—and with their grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

I look forward to paying my respects to this public servant later today.

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

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

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 5

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 5) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess today from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference lunches.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

URBAN AREA SECURITY INITIATIVE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, last week, 14 people were killed in a terrorist attack in New Orleans, and an explosion in Las Vegas injured several others. The FBI has warned that other attacks that copycat what happened in New Orleans could be a threat. Cities like New York and population centers like Long Island need to be prepared. There is one Federal program that stands as the cornerstone for anti-terror preparedness for places like New York City and Long Island—the Urban Area Security Initiative, known as UASI.

Today, I am announcing that I will request \$615 million for UASI in the upcoming funding negotiations this spring. UASI is one of our best firewalls for staying vigilant against terrorist threats. My request of \$615 million will help communities like New York City, Long Island, and the entire metropolitan area stand ready against acts of terror.

Last year, I was proud to deliver \$2.3 million in UASI funding for both Nassau and Suffolk Counties. That is over \$4.5 million in anti-terror funds just for Long Island this last year. I know these funds are critical for these communities and for people's safety on the island. I am also proud last year that we delivered another \$150 million to New York City in this funding. We must keep this robust funding going this year too.

UASI funds help pay for everything needed to keep people safe—from training and joint anti-terror operations across the city and Long Island to emergency medical equipment to better tools for Homeland Security officers for intelligence sharing and for so much more.

We need UASI funds to keep people safe here in the Nation's Capital too. Over the next few weeks, millions will come for the inauguration and for paying homage to former President Carter, and many people will be moving in and out of the city as the government enters a period of transition. Strong UASI funding is vital to ensuring security during all of these events.

I want to be clear: Any effort to cut this anti-terror program, especially right now, cannot stand. We in New York and on Long Island use these funds on a rolling basis. We need these funds. And to repeat: UASI funds are a firewall at a time potential copycat attacks, like the FBI has warned, are happening.

REMEMBERING JIMMY CARTER

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on Jimmy Carter, this morning, Special Air Mission 39 took off from Georgia, carrying the 39th President of the United States, Jimmy Carter, so he may be honored here in the Capitol one last time.

For the next 2 days, President Carter will lie in state in the Rotunda of the

U.S. Capitol Building, joining the small and distinguished list of eminent Americans who have earned this honor. Later today, I will join Leader THUNE and other congressional leaders in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol to place a wreath on President Carter's casket on behalf of the U.S. Senate.

Today and tomorrow, Americans will brave the snow and cold temperatures to pay their respects to one of the most decent men ever to hold the Office of the President. He was a gentleman in every sense of the word—kind, honorable, intelligent, humble, and deeply patriotic. These are virtues he brought to the Oval Office in an era when trust in government was arguably at a low in the 20th century.

But just as admirable as the legacy President Carter built after holding the most powerful job in the world, after leaving office, he established the Carter Center to continue his work on human rights, on spreading democracy, on fighting disease; and we all know about his work with Habitat for Humanity where he could often be found outside, building houses for families in need, well into his nineties. That was President Carter at his core. He never stopped serving others until his final day. America was lucky to have him as a citizen, as a President, and as a moral compass of our time.

119TH CONGRESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now, on the 119th Congress, as the 119th Congress begins, our Nation faces an uncertain future. Americans still see high prices every time they go to the store, when they go to the pharmacy, when they refill their tanks, and pay their cable and internet bills. We have done a lot of work over the last few years to slow inflation down, but the new majority must continue the work we have begun.

Donald Trump and Republicans made a slew of very bold promises on the campaign trail to fix our country's big problems. In some of these promises, they say they will fight for working people despite decades of doing the opposite and proposing things that would hurt them. Democrats will hold Republicans' feet to the fire to ensure they are accountable to the American people. Promises to help working people sound nice, but they mean nothing without real results, and too many of Republicans' promises, like tax cuts for the very wealthy, will actually make things worse for working people.

In the coming weeks, there will be one early sign that shows whether or not Republicans intend to keep their promises to fight for working people, and that is who they support through the nomination process. These nominees are going to be the faces of the new administration. They will be responsible for applying its policies. They will, in effect, be the ones responsible for following through, day-to-day, on the promises made on the campaign trail.

So the American people want to know: Will the President-elect's nominees follow through on cutting costs for the American people, or will they return to cutting sweet deals for mega corporations and the wealthiest people in this country?

Will they help their corporate contractors cozy up to foreign entities and oligarchs, all while undermining our national security?

Will they spend time settling scores for President-elect Trump, or will they actually help keep America safer?

Will they spend time settling scores for President-elect Trump, or will they actually help keep America safer?

Will the President-elect's nominees keep their promises to serve America, or are they just going to serve the swamp?

We remember what happened during the first Trump administration. The swamp wasn't drained so much as doubled and tripled and more. Even during the last campaign, Donald Trump promised oil executives huge tax breaks if he won. That would be the opposite of the promises he made to the people.

These are the kinds of things we need to know from the President-elect's nominees. We need to be fair but thorough and give every nominee a chance to make their case while also subjecting them to some tough scrutiny. That is, after all, what any reasonable job application process demands, whether you are an average person applying for a job or somebody being nominated for a very important Cabinet position.

So that is what we Democrats intend to do. That is what we will do. It is no different than what we intend to do on the legislative side. I will repeat what I said last week: Democrats are ready to work with anyone, regardless of party, to make life better for working people.

Let me mention one example from last week. On January 1, because of what the Democratic Senate and President did, the \$2,000 out-of-pocket cap that Democrats passed in the Inflation Reduction Act went into effect. Thanks to that policy, millions of Americans with Medicare Part D will save thousands of dollars each year on prescription drugs. If Republicans want to strengthen policies like these and help Americans save millions more on healthcare spending, Democrats are open to working together.

But our promise to Republicans also comes with a warning. Democrats will not hesitate to fight back if Republicans use their new majorities to hurt working families of America.

If Donald Trump and Republicans use their new majorities to push the same old GOP policies of tax cuts for billionaires, cuts to healthcare, cuts to Medicare and Social Security, trickle-down economics, Democrats will fight back.

If Republicans use their new majority to push policies that make life even

more expensive for families, we will stand opposed.

If Republicans go after Social Security or Medicare or Medicaid in people's paychecks, they will have to go through us.

The choice is now in the hands of our Republican colleagues. They are now in the majority. They now have the responsibility. We and the American people will be watching.

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

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

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I rise today to talk about the threats to America's security and our Republican effort to fight back.

On New Year's Day, 14 Americans were killed in a heartbreaking, deadly act of terrorism. Dozens of our fellow Americans were seriously injured as well in the carnage. These are people who were just celebrating the new year.

Their attacker was a terrorist. He flew an ISIS flag. It was off the back of his truck. As a result of the terrorist attack, he destroyed families, destabilized a community, and broke the hearts of so many, many Americans.

The shock of this attack is matched only by the urgency of the message that it sends to our country. The message is this: It is time to restore America's security and America's strength. Lives depend upon it.

To keep America safe, we need to refocus our government on the priorities that matter to the people of this Nation. We have seen this in realtime in terms of the danger of the distorted priorities of the last administration. Their priorities were a wide open border, a woke Pentagon leader, a weaponized and distracted FBI, a feckless foreign policy, and, of course, a weak President.

The current President's absence of leadership has made America and the world less safe. In 4 short years, our enemies have been emboldened; they have grown stronger; they are more aggressive; and they are more dangerous.

America once worked to deny terrorists a safe haven. Now the terrorist strongholds are back. Today, terrorists control Afghanistan. They control parts of Syria. They attack American troops from bases in Yemen. And this is only part of it.

Today, we face a serious security situation right here inside the United States. The New Orleans terrorist appears to have been radicalized while here in America. Over the past 4 years, over 300 individuals on the Terror

Watchlist—our own Nation's Terror Watchlist—have crossed into our country boldly and illegally. Those 300, they are just the ones that we know about.

We also know that Iran—the world's No. 1 state sponsor of terrorism—is actively funding anti-Jewish protests on our college campuses. President Biden did nothing. Instead of showing strength, he kept our borders open and continued to ignore Iran's aggression.

Weakness in the White House put us here. Returning to strength will help lead us out. In 13 days, our weak and wavering President will be replaced by a President who is respected for strength and for boldness.

We have seen failure up close. Americans will now get a very good look at what strong leadership looks like once again.

President Trump and Senate Republicans will act for Americans' safety. The Senate is going to work to confirm President Trump's strong nominees through a fair and speedy process. It is important for the President to have his national security team in place as quickly as possible. Especially right now, personnel is policy, and President Trump's team is ready to act.

The President's nominees are not a return to business as usual. No, not at all. They are motivated. They are skilled. They are committed to the safety and security of every American. Our national security depends on confirming them. The New Orleans attack proves it.

To my colleagues, I would remind each and every one of them that the Senate's power of advice and consent is no excuse to delay and deny or to try to search and destroy.

Last month, a sleeping woman in New York City was set on fire in the subway. She died. Her killer was an illegal immigrant. He was deported under President Trump and snuck back into this country under President Biden. Since 2023, he has lived—this illegal immigrant criminal murderer—in taxpayer-funded shelters here in this country. That is what we have seen the last 4 years.

The current President's actions invited and allowed 10 million people to cross into our country illegally. Our cities are overrun and overwhelmed.

It was weak border policies that got us here, put us in this position, and it is strong border policies that are going to get us back to safety. That means funding a border wall, deporting illegal immigrant criminals, and restoring successful policies such as "Remain in Mexico."

Our goal is to empower President Trump to enforce the law.

Republicans are also going to work to restore deterrence through strength and then what we have seen as the politicization of our military. Without a military focused on lethality, we can't be strong.

If these actions are taken, peace and safety, security and strength are not just possible, they will be coming very soon.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). Without objection, it is so ordered.

119TH CONGRESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as you know, last Friday, the Senate swore in new leaders for the 119th Congress, and in 2 weeks, the new Commander in Chief will be sworn in for a second time.

We are 6 days into a new year, and people around the country are making resolutions for the new year—everything from health to fitness, books to read, financial goals to meet—and as Republicans, now is a good time for us to do the exact same thing. We have our work cut out for us to help clean up the mess that President Biden and Senate Democrats have left us from the last 4 years.

I believe our first and most urgent task is to confirm President Trump's nominees for his Cabinet. The President won the election, and he is entitled to his team, absent extraordinary circumstances. It is simply impossible for the new administration to tackle the mountain of work waiting for them without their team of advisers who will lead critical government Agencies.

Without the President's Cabinet in place, he cannot get the job done that he was elected to do on November 5. With his Cabinet in place, we can get to work to implement the agenda that Texans and Americans across the country elected a trifecta of Republican leaders to accomplish.

The top of our list of priorities is, of course, to secure the southern border. I represent a State with 1,200 miles of common border with Mexico, and, sadly and tragically, under the previous administration's open border policies, it has been an unmitigated disaster.

The crisis at the southern border is one that President Biden quite literally invited with his campaign rhetoric and with his administration's policies. He invited this crisis. This was perhaps the one campaign promise that he delivered on. The Biden administration set out to reverse many, if not all, of President Trump's policies from his first term, including the "Remain in Mexico" policy and title 42.

Under President Biden's watch, the Border Patrol was overwhelmed with record numbers of illegal migrants crossing the border. Border Patrol encountered more than 370 people on the Terror Watchlist crossing between ports of entry during the Biden administration. We know there were roughly a dozen people who were part of the

conspiracy that resulted in the death of 3,000 Americans on September 11, 2001, and now here we have 370 people on the Terror Watchlist that crossed between ports of entry during the Biden administration. Well, that compares with well under 10 per year under the Trump administration. But I think the point is pretty obvious: This is dangerous.

Those are only the aliens who the Border Patrol encountered or apprehended. Remember that President Biden also set records for "got-aways." That is what the Border Patrol calls the people who simply evaded law enforcement—aliens who fled because, frankly, they were up to no good.

As of May, more than 1.7 million "got-aways" had made their way into the United States under their watch. These are just people who triggered various cameras and sensors and were able to evade law enforcement. Surely there were more that were able to make their way into the interior of the United States. Again, under President Biden's border policies, all you have to do is turn yourself in and you would be released into the interior, but these are people that could not even risk that because of either their criminal records or their intention to do harm, including carry drugs into the United States.

Since the Biden administration established the word "asylum" as a magic word that resulted in their release into the interior, we can be pretty sure that many of those evading Border Patrol have something else to hide.

Human trafficking and drug trafficking by the cartels have caused enormous and often untold suffering for the people of my home State of Texas and Americans as a whole. Fentanyl, which is now the leading cause of death of young people in America 18 to 45, is manufactured—or the precursors are manufactured in China and trafficked through the U.S.-Mexico border.

Countless migrants released into the interior of our country have failed to show up for their day in court, showing others looking to make the dangerous journey to the United States that they might also be able to make it and suffer zero consequences.

All of these actions—or lack of actions—from the Biden administration have sent a clear signal that the laws of the United States will not be enforced.

You know, law enforcement depends on our great men and women in blue to investigate crimes and to deter other people from committing crimes, but deterrence is a very important element that has simply been lost by the Biden administration's open border policies.

Given the fact that most people who come to the United States know, under the Biden administration, that they will simply be released, there is no reason for them to believe that they will not be released as well, and so there is zero deterrence. That is getting ready to change under President Trump.

Now, speaking of breaking the law without consequence, violent crime is another problem plaguing Texans and American cities across the country. Leftwing mayors and city governments have advanced soft-on-crime policies in major cities from Chicago to Los Angeles and from New York to San Francisco. What has been the result? Well, criminals have noticed that there are no consequences to them committing crimes in these cities. The lack of consequences is an incentive, an encouragement for them to continue stealing, breaking, and murdering.

That is all beginning to change under a new administration. Republicans are prepared to take steps necessary to prevent and ensure that ramifications for these crimes exist. We have done so before, and we are going to do so again.

During President Trump's first administration, I was proud to partner with him on legislation to lock up violent criminals and ensure justice for victims. One of my top priorities for the new year is to do everything I can to build on the great work we accomplished under President Trump's first term to make sure that our communities, our cities, and our streets are once again safe.

Another way that we will keep our citizens safe is by ensuring that Second Amendment rights are safeguarded. The Trump administration will end President Biden's assault on the Second Amendment—the right to keep and bear arms—as well as the Biden administration's bad-faith interpretations of Second Amendment-related legislation.

I look forward to leading my Senate colleagues in reintroducing my Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act and working with the Trump administration and our cosponsors here in the Senate to get this legislation across the finish line.

Now, I know some folks from places like New York or maybe San Francisco might say: You are actually going to make it easier for people to carry a firearm legally?

Well, the answer is, already the vast majority of States have licensing regimes where responsible, law-abiding citizens can exercise their Second Amendment rights by getting a license to carry a firearm, including Texas and including the District of Columbia. I happen to have a license in both jurisdictions. Many States have gone simply to a nonlicensed status so that people can exercise their Second Amendment rights.

I would reiterate, America and Americans have nothing to fear from law-abiding citizens exercising their Second Amendment rights. Those are not the people we should be concerned about. We should be most concerned about people who are criminals who cannot legally carry a firearm or people with mental health incapacities who are currently prohibited under existing law from carrying or owning or possessing a firearm. Those are existing laws that are enforced, given the

National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

Now, while our safety and security start at home, in our communities, and at our borders, it also extends around the world. As I have said before from this floor, we now have the most dangerous geopolitical environment that we have had since World War II.

Texans voted resoundingly for President Trump in this last election in part because of his pledge to hold China accountable. China threatens the peace in the Indo-Pacific by threatening to invade its neighbor Taiwan and interrupt freedom of commerce and freedom of navigation in the Indo-Pacific.

One of the ways that we can hold China accountable is to pass my legislation to address outbound investment in China. I just had a chance to visit with the new Treasury Secretary nominee, and I told him it was really strange to me when you look historically at how we dealt with the Soviet Union and how we dealt with China, both of which are ruled by communist governments.

Many years ago, at the beginning of the Cold War, George Kennan, a famous diplomat, wrote something called the "Long Telegram," where he said you are not going to change communist Russia. It is an ideological obsession they have. You are not going to change their minds. So what you need to do—what the free world needs to do—is to contain them. And that is what the Cold War was all about, leading ultimately to the fall of the Soviet Union.

Strangely enough, the U.S. position toward China was just the opposite. Under President Clinton, he invited them into the World Trade Organization, believing that somehow by engaging in more trade with the rest of the world, that somehow China and the Communist Party would change. Well, as Xiaoping, one of the former leaders of communist China, said: Hide your motives and bide your time. And that is exactly what China has done.

China has now become the manufacturing center for the world. When you are buying inexpensive consumer products, that is one thing, but when you consider the vulnerability of our supply chains and things that China makes and does—like processes critical minerals, which it does 90 percent of the critical minerals of the world that we need for a variety of products, including military weapons—that represents a huge vulnerability. Well, we need to know who is investing in what industries in China because, right now, the rough estimate of the market value of American-based investment in China in 2020 was \$2.3 trillion.

China has built its economy—which, by itself, should not be a big concern—but they now have become a rival to the United States. If they played by the rules, that would be one thing. But China is famous for not honoring intellectual property laws and stealing all the technology they can. And they are using their economic power, which is

synonymous with their military power because they have something called civilian-military fusion laws, which said if the private sector creates a new innovative product, they have to share it with the People's Liberation Army and the Communist Party in China.

My point is, my outbound investment piece of legislation says we need to know who is investing money in China and what that is being used for. I could care less if people want to build more Burger Kings or Starbucks in China. I am not worried about that. But when you start talking about advanced semiconductors, when you start talking about serial intellectual property theft, when you look at some of the weapons systems and the airframes China has been creating, they bear a remarkable resemblance to those we built here in the United States because they have engaged in massive theft through cyber attacks and through intellectual property theft.

But it is simply foolish for the United States to continue to blindly invest billions of dollars in the very defense systems and technologies that the Chinese Communist Party could use to our detriment in the Indo-Pacific.

Our colleague Senator SULLIVAN from Alaska just retired as colonel from the Marines. He puts it very poignantly. He says: American investors are going to fund the very military buildup that will result in the death of my marines if China were to invade Taiwan.

To me—and I am sure to all of us—that is simply unacceptable. Right now, we are flying blind, and that needs to change.

While some might be concerned about lost investment potential in China, there are plenty of opportunities here at home and in other parts around the world, as we see more friendshoring and nearshoring, to create dependable supply chains to Asia, India, and elsewhere.

Well, there is another area where I expect President Trump to make a big difference, and that is in the energy sector and primarily to do this through regulatory reform. For the past 4 years, the Biden administration has put the wistful dreams of climate activists ahead of the interests of ordinary Americans, particularly those in my home State of Texas.

And he is certainly not letting the door hit him on the way out. Today—I think that was actually yesterday—President Biden announced one last nail in the coffin by issuing a permanent ban on oil and gas leasing in certain Federal waters preventing new drilling.

But nevertheless, Republicans will not be dissuaded from our task to reverse the damage of the Biden administration and unleash this huge asset, which is American energy. By removing burdensome regulations from our energy sector, by improving the permitting process so we can actually build things like the capacity to

produce electricity that would drive data centers and artificial intelligence, and by increasing our exports of things like natural gas so our friends and allies don't have to depend on Russia to keep the lights on or to heat their homes, we can create both growth for our economy here at home and we can improve our natural security posturing, including shoring up our vulnerable supply chains. Rather than forcing Europe to rely on Russia for its energy sources, we can increase their reliance—and they are eager to have it—on American energy, particularly liquefied natural gas.

This would be a big win for America and a big win for my State as well and a big loss for the “axis of evil”—Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea that are working together to undermine the United States and the West.

We have a lot to do and very little time to do it. We have an opportunity to pass huge wins for President Trump and, more specifically, for the American people. And that comes first through the budget reconciliation process. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity, and it is not an opportunity we can afford to squander. We can't let this go to waste by not taking this occasion to finally address our skyrocketing debt. And the only way we can do that is not only be responsible in the way we handle things like discretionary spending but to dig deeper into the areas that the Federal Government spends like mandatory spending.

I know Medicare and Social Security are particularly fraught. And without bipartisan support, it is really hard to save Social Security and Medicare, particularly if the Democrats aren't going to be willing to help. But there is about \$700 billion a year that the Federal Government spends that has mandatory spending. That means it is on autopilot, and we never go back to revisit it to see if it is still a priority, which continues to grow at 5, 6, 7, 8 percent a year. And until and unless we deal with this mandatory spending, we are never going to deal with this mountain of debt now approaching \$36 trillion.

We have now finally gotten to the point where we are paying more money for interest on the national debt than we are on our own defense, which is 2.7 percent of our GDP. We finally kicked the can down the road to the point we have run out of road. That is true both in terms of our fiscal condition and in terms of our national security.

We can't let this opportunity go to waste. As I said, we need to take a hard look at both our mandatory discretionary spending, and we also need to take a look at how the Tax Code has been transformed into a welfare system. About \$200 billion a year go to pay for the child tax credit and the earned income tax credit.

Democrats have been successful in decoupling any sort of work requirement for able-bodied adults. That needs to be reinstated because when it comes

to assessing the people who deserve help and need our help, able-bodied individuals should not be able to ride the backs of the American taxpayers. They need to do like everybody else does who is able-bodied, and that is to be a producer, not somebody who lives off the beneficence of the American taxpayer.

We have a lot of work to do, but this is an incredible opportunity that I trust we will not squander. The time to address these problems is now. We put it off long enough. I know it is easy to say let's do the easy things now, and we will do the hard stuff later. But later never seems to come so we have to deal with these now.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate stand in recess pursuant to the previous order.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:25 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH).

MORNING BUSINESS—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

CONSTITUTING THE MAJORITY PARTY'S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 16, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 16) to constitute the majority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, for the purpose of S. Res. 16, the majority committee membership resolution, the blank spaces with respect to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Energy and Natural Resources; Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Special Committee on Aging are there to preserve the ratios on those committees negotiated between the Democratic leader and myself. It is my intention to place Senator elect Jim Justice of West Virginia on those committees by subsequent resolution when he is sworn in on January 14, 2025.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 16) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

CONSTITUTING THE MINORITY PARTY'S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 17, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 17) to constitute the minority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 17) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 9

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 9) to provide that for purposes of determining compliance with title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 in athletics, sex shall be recognized based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

MORNING BUSINESS

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO LORIE TUDOR

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Lorie Tudor who is retiring from the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) after an accomplished career, including the last 4 years as its director.

Tudor started at ARDOT in 1981 as a clerk typist and served the agency for 14 years before departing to obtain an engineering degree. She then returned after graduating from the University of Memphis in 1997 to begin working as a civil engineer.

In March of 2020, she became ARDOT's first female director. Facing the COVID-19 pandemic and an emergency closing of the Hernando de Soto I-40 Mississippi River Bridge in 2021, as well as other major endeavors, her steady hand and trusted leadership made the transformation of our State's transportation network possible.

Tudor embodies the Arkansas spirit of service. Her commitment to the organization, its staff, and its role within communities across the Natural State has been essential.

During her 41-year tenure at ARDOT, she helped secure a stable and reliable funding stream; guided the completion of the Connecting Arkansas Program, which modernized our State's transportation systems; played an important role in several interstate designations; oversaw the final stages of construction of the Bella Vista Bypass; and ensured progress on key projects including I-30 and I-69, as well as the Thomas B. Schueck Highway.

She is a dedicated public servant who has spent her career striving to make Arkansas better. Tudor's expertise has been widely recognized, including her selection as president of the Southern Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and appointment to the State Board for Licensure for Professional Engineers and Professional Surveyors in October 2020, on which she served as president in 2023.

Director Lorie Tudor has served ARDOT and our State with incredible devotion and skill. I am grateful for all she has contributed to improve our State's transportation infrastructure and appreciate our valuable partnership. I know her impact will continue to be felt for generations to come and wish her the best of luck in retirement.●

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 5. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 9. A bill to provide that for purposes of determining compliance with title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 in athletics, sex shall be recognized based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1. A communication from the Program Analyst, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Natural Grass Sod Promotion, Research, and Information Order; Referendum Procedures" (RIN0581-AE07) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-2. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Investment of Customer Funds by Futures Commission Merchants and Derivatives Clearing Organizations" (RIN3038-AF24) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-3. A communication from the Secretary of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulations to Address Margin Adequacy and to Account for the Treatment of Separate Accounts by Futures Commission Merchants" (RIN3038-AF21) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2024; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4. A communication from the General Counsel, Government Accountability Office, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2024 Antideficiency Act Reports Compilation"; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-5. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of five (5) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-6. A communication from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Updating Authorizations for Payments for Legal Services" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-8. A communication from the Chair-

man of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Annual Report to Congress on the Presidential \$1 Dollar Coin Program"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-9. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13219 with respect to the Western Balkans; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-10. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 14115 of February 1, 2024 with respect to the situation in the West Bank; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-11. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13466 with respect to North Korea; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-12. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2025-2027 Enterprise Housing Goals" (RIN2590-AB34) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-13. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Financial Stability Oversight Council 2024 annual report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-14. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Legislative Affairs, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "CFPB College Banking and Credit Card Agreements, December 2024"; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-15. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "EDGAR Filer Access and Account Management" (RIN3235-AM58) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-16. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Electronic Submission of Certain Materials Under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; Amendments Regarding the Focus Report" (RIN3235-AL85) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-17. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Overdraft Lending: Very Large Financial Institutions" (RIN3170-AA42) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 3, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-18. A communication from the President of the United States transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the designation as emergency requirements all funding (including the transfer and repurposing of funds) so designated by the Congress in the American Relief Act, 2025

pursuant to section 251 (b) (2) (A) of the of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, as outlined in the enclosed list of accounts received during adjournment of the Senate in the office of the President of the Senate on December 23, 2024; to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-19. A communication from the Executive Assistant, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area; Bicycling" (RIN1024-AE80) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-20. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Walk-In Coolers and Walk-In Freezers" (RIN1904-AD79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-21. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Gas-fired Instantaneous Water Heaters" (RIN1904-AF65) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 31, 2024; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. LEE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. BUDD, Mr. SHEEHY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. PAUL, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BANKS, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 9. A bill to provide that for purposes of determining compliance with title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 in athletics, sex shall be recognized based solely on a person's reproductive biology and genetics at birth; read the first time.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 21. A bill to require each Executive department to establish policies and collect information regarding teleworking employees of the Executive department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 22. A bill to establish a competitive bidding process for the relocation of the headquarters of Executive agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 23. A bill to require the head of each Executive agency to relocate 30 percent of the employees assigned to the headquarters of the Executive agency to duty stations outside the Washington metropolitan area, and

for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 24. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 154 First Avenue East in Jerome, Idaho, as the "Representative Maxine Bell Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 25. A bill to impose an assessment related to fossil fuel emissions, to establish the Polluter Pay Climate Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 26. A bill to exclude locality adjustments from average pay for purposes of computing the amount of retirement annuities of new employees; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 27. A bill to prohibit certain telework employees from receiving certain annual adjustments to pay schedules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. CURTIS):

S. 28. A bill to require the disclosure of a camera or recording capability in certain internet-connected devices; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 29. A bill to make daylight saving time permanent, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. PAUL, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. DAINES, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mr. BANKS):

S.J. Res. 1. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. THUNE:

S. Res. 16. A resolution to constitute the majority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. Res. 17. A resolution to constitute the minority party's membership on certain committees for the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen; considered and agreed to.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 16—TO CONSTITUTE THE MAJORITY PARTY'S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS, OR UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE CHOSEN

Mr. THUNE submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 16

Resolved, That the following shall constitute the majority party's membership on the following committees for the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY: Mr. Boozman (Chair), Mr. McConnell, Mr. Hoeven, Ms. Ernst, Mrs. Hyde-Smith, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Tuberville, _____, Mr. Grassley, Mr. Thune, Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Moran.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS: Ms. Collins (Chair), Mr. McConnell, Ms. Murkowski, Mr. Graham, Mr. Moran, Mr. Hoeven, Mr. Boozman, Mrs. Capito, Mr. Kennedy, Mrs. Hyde-Smith, Mr. Hagerty, Mrs. Britt, Mr. Mullin, Mrs. Fisher, Mr. Rounds.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES: Mr. Wicker (Chair), Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Cotton, Mr. Rounds, Ms. Ernst, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Cramer, Mr. Scott (FL), Mr. Tuberville, Mr. Mullin, Mr. Budd, Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Banks, Mr. Sheehy.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS: Mr. Scott (SC) (Chair), Mr. Crapo, Mr. Rounds, Mr. Tillis, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Hagerty, Ms. Lummis, Mrs. Britt, Mr. Ricketts, Mr. Banks, Mr. Cramer, Mr. Moreno, Mr. McCormick.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION: Mr. Cruz (Chair), Mr. Thune, Mr. Wicker, Mrs. Fischer, Mr. Moran, Mr. Sullivan, Mrs. Blackburn, Mr. Young, Mr. Budd, Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Moreno, Mr. Sheehy, Mrs. Capito, Ms. Lummis.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES: Mr. Lee (Chair), Mr. Barrasso, Mr. Risch, Mr. Daines, Mr. Cotton, Mr. McCormick, _____, Mr. Cassidy, Mrs. Hyde-Smith, Ms. Murkowski, Mr. Hoeven.

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Mrs. Capito (Chair), Mr. Cramer, Ms. Lummis, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Graham, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Ricketts, Mr. Wicker, Mr. Boozman, Mr. Moran.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE: Mr. Crapo (Chair), Mr. Grassley, Mr. Cornyn, Mr. Thune, Mr. Scott (SC), Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Lankford, Mr. Daines, Mr. Young, Mr. Barrasso, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Tillis, Mrs. Blackburn, Mr. Marshall.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS: Mr. Risch (Chair), Mr. Ricketts, Mr. McCormick, Mr. Daines, Mr. Hagerty, Mr. Barrasso, Mr. Lee, Mr. Paul, Mr. Cruz, Mr. Scott (FL), Mr. Curtis, Mr. Cornyn.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS: Mr. Cassidy (Chair), Mr. Paul, Ms. Collins, Ms. Murkowski, Mr. Mullin, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Scott (SC), Mr. Hawley, Mr. Tuberville, Mr. Banks, Mr. Crapo, Mrs. Blackburn.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS: Mr. Paul (Chair), Mr. Johnson, Mr. Lankford, Mr. Scott (FL), Mr. Hawley, Mr. Moreno, Ms. Ernst, Mr. Scott (SC).

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY: Mr. Grassley (Chair), Mr. Graham, Mr. Cornyn, Mr. Lee, Mr. Cruz, Mr. Hawley, Mr. Tillis, Mr. Kennedy, Mrs. Blackburn, Mr. Schmitt, Mrs. Britt, Mr. Crapo.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE: Mr. Cotton (Chair), Mr. Risch, Ms. Collins, Mr. Cornyn, Mr. Moran, Mr. Lankford, Mr. Rounds, Mr. Young, Mr. Rubio.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING: Mr. Scott (FL) (Chair), Mr. McCormick, _____, Mr. Tuberville, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Crapo, Mr. Scott (SC).

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET: Mr. Graham (Chair), Mr. Grassley, Mr. Crapo, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Marshall, Mr. Cornyn, Mr. Lee, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Ricketts, Mr. Moreno, Mr. Scott (FL).

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS: Ms. Murkowski (Chair), Mr. Hoeven, Mr. Daines, Mr. Mullin, Mr. Rounds, Mr. Moran.

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE: Mr. Schmitt (Chair), Mr. Cotton, Mr. Budd, Mr. McCormick, Mrs. Blackburn, Mr. Moran.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION: Mr. McConnell (Chair), Mr. Cruz, Mrs. Capito, Mr. Wicker, Mrs. Fischer, Mrs. Hyde-Smith, Mr. Hagerty, Mrs. Britt, Mr. Boozman.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Ms. Ernst (Chair), Mr. Risch, Mr. Paul, Mr. Scott (SC), Mr. Young, Mr. Hawley, Mr. Budd, Mr. Curtis, _____, Mrs. Blackburn.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS: Mr. Moran (Chair), Mr. Boozman, Mr. Cassidy, Mr. Tillis, Mr. Sullivan, Mrs. Blackburn, Mr. Cramer, Mr. Tuberville, Mr. Banks, Mr. Sheehy.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS: Mr. Lankford (Chair), Mr. Risch, Mrs. Fischer.

SENATE RESOLUTION 17—TO CONSTITUTE THE MINORITY PARTY'S MEMBERSHIP ON CERTAIN COMMITTEES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS, OR UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE CHOSEN

Mr. SCHUMER submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 17

Resolved, the following shall constitute the minority party's membership on the following committees for the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress, or until their successors are chosen:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY: Ms. Klobuchar (Ranking), Mr. Bennet, Ms. Smith, Mr. Durbin, Mr. Booker, Mr. Luján, Mr. Warnock, Mr. Welch, Mr. Fetterman, Mr. Schiff, Ms. Slotkin.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS: Mrs. Murray (Ranking), Mr. Durbin, Mr. Reed, Mrs.

Shaheen, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Coons, Mr. Schatz, Ms. Baldwin, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Van Hollen, Mr. Heinrich, Mr. Peters, Mrs. Gillibrand, Mr. Ossoff.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES: Mr. Reed (Ranking), Mrs. Shaheen, Mrs. Gillibrand, Mr. Blumenthal, Ms. Hirono, Mr. Kaine, Mr. King, Ms. Warren, Mr. Peters, Ms. Duckworth, Ms. Rosen, Mr. Kelly, Ms. Slotkin.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS: Ms. Warren (Ranking), Mr. Reed, Mr. Warner, Mr. Van Hollen, Ms. Cortez Masto, Ms. Smith, Mr. Warnock, Mr. Kim, Mr. Gallego, Ms. Blunt Rochester, Ms. Alsbrooks.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION: Ms. Cantwell (Ranking), Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Schatz, Mr. Markey, Mr. Peters, Ms. Baldwin, Ms. Duckworth, Ms. Rosen, Mr. Luján, Mr. Hickenlooper, Mr. Fetterman, Mr. Kim, Ms. Blunt Rochester.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES: Mr. Heinrich (Ranking), Mr. Wyden, Ms. Cantwell, Ms. Hirono, Mr. King, Ms. Cortez Masto, Mr. Hickenlooper, Mr. Padilla, Mr. Gallego.

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS: Mr. Whitehouse (Ranking), Mr. Sanders, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Markey, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Padilla, Mr. Schiff, Ms. Blunt Rochester, Ms. Alsbrooks.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE: Mr. Wyden (Ranking), Ms. Cantwell, Mr. Bennet, Mr. Warner, Mr. Whitehouse, Ms. Hassan, Ms. Cortez Masto, Ms. Warren, Mr. Sanders, Ms. Smith, Mr. Luján, Mr. Warnock, Mr. Welch.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS: Mrs. Shaheen (Ranking), Mr. Coons, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Kaine, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Booker, Mr. Schatz, Mr. Van Hollen, Ms. Duckworth, Ms. Rosen.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS: Mr. Sanders (Ranking), Mrs. Murray, Ms. Baldwin, Mr. Murphy, Mr. Kaine, Ms. Hassan, Mr. Hickenlooper, Mr. Markey, Mr. Kim, Ms. Blunt Rochester, Ms. Alsbrooks.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS: Mr. Peters (Ranking), Ms. Hassan, Mr. Blumenthal, Mr. Fetterman, Mr. Kim, Mr. Gallego, Ms. Slotkin.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE: Mr. Warner (Ranking), Mr. Wyden, Mr. Heinrich, Mr. King, Mr. Bennet, Mrs. Gillibrand, Mr. Ossoff, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Reed (ex officio), Mr. Schumer (ex officio).

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY: Mr. Durbin (Ranking), Mr. Whitehouse, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Coons, Mr. Blumenthal, Ms. Hirono, Mr. Booker, Mr. Padilla, Mr. Welch, Mr. Schiff.

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET: Mr. Merkley (Ranking), Mrs. Murray, Mr. Wyden, Mr.

Sanders, Mr. Whitehouse, Mr. Warner, Mr. Kaine, Mr. Van Hollen, Mr. Luján, Mr. Padilla.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Padilla (Ranking), Mr. Schumer, Mr. Warner, Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Merkley, Mr. Ossoff, Mr. Bennet, Mr. Welch.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP: Mr. Markey (Ranking), Ms. Cantwell, Mrs. Shaheen, Mr. Booker, Mr. Coons, Ms. Hirono, Ms. Rosen, Mr. Hickenlooper, Mr. Schiff.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS: Mr. Blumenthal (Ranking), Mrs. Murray, Mr. Sanders, Ms. Hirono, Ms. Hassan, Mr. King, Ms. Duckworth, Mr. Gallego, Ms. Slotkin.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING: Mrs. Gillibrand (Ranking), Ms. Warren, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Warnock, Mr. Kim, Ms. Alsbrooks.

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE: Ms. Hassan (Ranking), Ms. Klobuchar, Mr. Heinrich, Mr. Kelly.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS: Mr. Coons (Ranking), Mr. Schatz, Mrs. Shaheen.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS: Mr. Schatz (Ranking), Ms. Cantwell, Ms. Cortez Masto, Ms. Smith, Mr. Luján.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 11 a.m. on Wednesday, January 8; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and 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.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:32 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 11 a.m.