

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

FINISHING THE SENATE'S WORK

Mr. REID. Madam President, as a Christian, no one has to remind me of the importance of Christmas for all of the Christian faith, all of their families all across America.

I do not think any of us, and I do not need to hear the sanctimonious lectures of Senators KYL and DEMINT to remind me of what Christmas means.

My question is, Where were their concerns about Christmas when they led filibuster after filibuster on major pieces of legislation during this entire Congress—not once but 87 times, taking days and days of the people's time in the Senate on wasteful delay?

Senate Republicans need look no further than themselves in casting blame for the predicament we are in right now. In this Congress, I repeat, Republicans have waged 87 filibusters. They have used every procedural trick in the book to delay legislation that is important to the American people.

We have been able to work through most of that and have what, in the mind of Norm Ornstein, the most successful Congress watcher in decades says is the most successful, productive Congress in the history of the country. We have done that in spite of all of the roadblocks that have been thrown in our way.

In just a few minutes, we are going to proceed to the START treaty. I am told the Republicans are going to make us read the entire treaty in an effort to stall us from passing it. Isn't that wonderful. That treaty has been here since April or May of this year—plenty of time to read it.

These are additional days of wasted time that we could be using to pass legislation to get home for the holidays. Yet some of my Republican colleagues have the nerve to whine about having to stay in action and do the work the American people pay us to do. We make large salaries. We could work, as most American do, during the holidays.

Perhaps Senators KYL and DEMINT have been in Washington too long because in my State, Nevadans employed in casinos and hotels and throughout the State of Nevada—on our ranches, basically everywhere—have to work hard on holidays, including Christmas, to support their families.

The mines do not shut down in Nevada on Christmas. People work. They get paid double time a lot of times when they have good contracts. But they work on Christmas holidays. Most people do not get 2 weeks off at any time let alone Christmas week. These people who are lucky enough to have a job in these trying times need to work extra hard just to make ends meet.

So it is offensive to me and millions of working Americans across this country for any Senator to suggest that working through the Christmas holidays is somehow sacrilegious or disrespectful.

The path to finishing this year lies in the hands of Senators such as Senators KYL and DEMINT and any other Senate Republican who is trying to run out the clock or run out the door without finishing the American people's business. If they decide to work with us, we can all have a happy holiday. If they do not, we will continue until we finish the people's business.

TREATY WITH RUSSIA ON MEASURES FOR FURTHER REDUCTION AND LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to Calendar No. 7, the START treaty. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) is necessarily absent.

Mr. KYL. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI).

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 66, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 277 Ex.]

YEAS—66

Akaka	Gillibrand	Murkowski
Baucus	Graham	Murray
Begich	Hagan	Nelson (NE)
Bennet	Harkin	Nelson (FL)
Bennett	Inouye	Pryor
Bingaman	Johnson	Reed
Boxer	Kerry	Reid
Brown (MA)	Klobuchar	Rockefeller
Brown (OH)	Kohl	Sanders
Cantwell	Landrieu	Schumer
Cardin	Lautenberg	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Snowe
Casey	Levin	Specter
Collins	Lieberman	Stabenow
Conrad	Lincoln	Tester
Coons	Lugar	Udall (CO)
Dodd	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Dorgan	McCain	Voinovich
Durbin	McCaskill	Warner
Feingold	Menendez	Webb
Feinstein	Merkley	Whitehouse
Franken	Mikulski	Wyden

NAYS—32

Alexander	Crapo	Kyl
Barrasso	DeMint	LeMieux
Bond	Ensign	McConnell
Brownback	Grassley	Risch
Bunning	Gregg	Roberts
Burr	Hatch	Sessions
Chambliss	Hutchison	Shelby
Coburn	Inhofe	Thune
Cochran	Isakson	Vitter
Corker	Johanns	Wicker
Cornyn	Kirk	

NOT VOTING—2

Bayh	Enzi
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The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

TREATY WITH RUSSIA ON MEASURES FOR FURTHER REDUCTION AND LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the treaty.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session for the remarks by the Senator from Arkansas.

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, could we have the attention of everyone in the Senate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will come to order.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have had a number of conversations in the recent minutes with the Republican leader. I think we would be well advised—and we are going to proceed along this avenue unless someone has an objection—that for the rest of the day and the evening, however long people want to visit, we will be in a period of morning business. As soon as Senator LINCOLN finishes her remarks, we will be in a period of morning business, and Senators will be allowed to speak for up to 15 minutes. I put that in the form of a consent request.

We have a number of Senators over here and on the Republican side who want to speak on the START treaty, but people are not going to be restricted to that. They can speak about anything they want. Then tomorrow morning we will return to the START treaty.

So this afternoon, I again ask unanimous consent that we be in a period of morning business and that Senators be allowed to speak for up to 15 minutes each during this period of morning business, with the understanding that tomorrow morning, at a reasonable hour, we will return to the START treaty and begin debate directly on that.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. And part of that agreement is that today will be for debate only.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, and I am certainly not going to object, I want to thank the majority leader. I think it is a good way to go forward. There was some suggestion that some on this side of the aisle wanted to read the treaty. Our view is that that is not essential.

We do encourage our members—I know Senator LUGAR, our ranking member on Foreign Relations, is here and Senator KYL, who has been deeply involved in this issue. We would encourage them to begin the debate on the treaty.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, reserving the right to—

Mr. REID. Mr. President, also, if I could respond to my friend, I know Senator LUGAR has spent lots of time on this treaty, as has Senator KYL, as has Senator KERRY and others. Everyone, we will be very generous with time. If Senator LUGAR, who is one of the wizards of foreign policy in the history of our country, needs more time, no one is going to stand in the way of that. So everyone should understand that we did put a 15-minute limitation on it, but there will be consents granted for people to speak longer if, in fact, it is necessary.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I appreciate the comments of the leader with respect to that question. I wonder if the order might predicate at the outset that Senator LUGAR—he has asked me for 40 minutes as an opening. I know Senator KYL would probably want to be able to speak an equal amount of time. I would like to, obviously, make an opening, appropriately a little longer. So if we could perhaps make the order 40 minutes to Senator LUGAR, 40 minutes to Senator KYL. I would like a half hour. And we have some other Senators from there. And we could vary this as we go. Is that possible?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. So the consent request is that Senator LUGAR be recognized for 40 minutes, Senator KYL for 40 minutes, Senator KERRY for 30 minutes; is that right?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. That is correct.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I am not sure I will be speaking for 40 minutes or any particular timeframe here. I want to focus for the moment on the omnibus and a continuing resolution, so my remarks probably would be relevant to that, and therefore I probably should not join in the unanimous consent request at this time.

Mr. REID. OK. So, Mr. President, I am glad we clarified that. But, as I said, anyone can talk about anything they want. So why don't we have the consent request amended that Senator LUGAR be recognized for 40 minutes, Senator KERRY for 30 minutes, and then the rest of the time will be jump ball for people to speak for up to 15 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. And I conferred with Senator MCCONNELL. There will be no roll-call votes the rest of the day.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will come to order.

The Senator from Arkansas is recognized.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Thank you, Mr. President. Well, I hope there is not too much order because it will make me feel a little bit out of place.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the Senate is not in order.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will please come to order. Take conversations off the floor.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Thank you, Mr. President. As I said, I hope there is not too much order. I do not want this place to change too much.

FAREWELL TO THE SENATE

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I am glad to be here with my colleagues to express my gratitude for the incredible, blessed life's journey I have experienced thus far and the wonderful contributions this place has made to that. I have been enormously blessed by the people of Arkansas to have represented them in the U.S. Congress, first as a Member of the House of Representatives and finally now as a U.S. Senator. Today, I rise as the daughter of two amazing parents, Martha and the late Jordan Lambert, the proud daughter of a seventh-generation Arkansas family, dirt farmers—not to be confused, we didn't farm dirt, but we were hard-working farmers who were not afraid to get dirty, to get our hands into the Earth and to do what it was we have done for generations in Arkansas. I am also the proud wife of Dr. Steve Lincoln and the very proud mother of two incredible young men, Reece and Bennett—great boys. You all have watched them grow up. It is the many unique life experiences each of us brings to this place and to this job that really and truly contribute to the mark we leave on this institution.

When I came to the Senate, my boys were 2 and we were about to celebrate their third birthday. We didn't have any friends up here, so I looked around the Senate to see who had children, who could bring their kids to our birthday party, and there were a few. We kind of had to rent out some kids to come to the Moonbounce to have a great party and it was fun. I realized how important that experience was for me to bring to this body, to share with people. PATTY MURRAY knows—she has been there—MARY LANDRIEU, AMY KLOBUCHAR, and so many others who have had their children here in the Senate. What a difference that makes in your perspective on what you are doing here. It makes a big difference.

BIRTHDAYS were a big deal when we first got here. In my household, you are allowed to celebrate your birthday for an entire week, and it is always a great time. My first birthday I celebrated in the Senate was unusual. We had just moved. My husband had moved his practice. The boys were here. They had just turned 3. It was hectic. It was a new Congress. We had all just come through an impeachment

trial. There were many things going on. When my birthday came around, it kind of came and went. My husband noticed that. So we had gone to a spouse dinner shortly after my first birthday in the Senate. My good friend, JOE BIDEN, who was my seatmate before he left to become Vice President, and his wife Jill had reached out to us to make us feel comfortable. We were young parents. We had small children. We were both working very hard.

The first spouse dinner we went to, we were sitting with Joe and Jill, and Jill produced a lovely birthday gift. It was a monogrammed box, obviously something that was thought about. It wasn't something she picked up and re-gifted from her closet at home. It meant so much to my husband and to me, that we were a part of a family who realized what we were going through—not just what they were going through but what we were going through. I looked at Jill and told her: You couldn't have done anything to make me or my husband more happy than to think of something that was important in our lives, and they did that. I have been a part of this family, and it has been a great time.

As I glance back on my time here, I do so with great pride, knowing that each of my votes and actions were taken with the best interests of the people of Arkansas in mind. I have always attempted to conduct myself in a manner that would make Arkansans proud, and my tears today I hope are not going to affect that. Living by my mother's rule as we did growing up, if it was rude or dangerous, it was not allowed, and I hope I have definitely met that rule because Mother sent us off with it.

As a farmer's daughter, I am honored to have helped craft three farm bills that were crucial to the economy of Arkansas. I was able to persuade my colleagues to understand the regional differences in production agriculture in our country but, most of all, I am proud I was able to impress upon my colleagues and others, hopefully, across this great Nation of ours the enormous blessing our Nation receives from farm and ranch families, what they bestow upon us, what they allow us and all the rest of the world to do each and every day; that is, to eat, to sustain ourselves, and to be able to grow.

I am particularly honored to have become the first woman and the first Arkansan to serve as the chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry. It has been a wonderful year I have had, and I will always be proud of what we have accomplished in that committee this year and certainly in years past.

We passed historic child nutrition legislation. As a result, each meal served in schools will meet nutritional standards our children and future generations deserve, putting them on a path to wellness instead of obesity. As a result, we will see an increase in the reimbursement rate for schools for the