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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 30, 2013, at 12 noon.

Senate

MONDAY, JULY 29, 2013

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, today let Your favor rest upon the Members of our government's legislative branch. Establish the works of their hands and strengthen them to honor You by serving others. Lord, let Your life-giving spirit move them to feel greater compassion for those in need. Use them to remove barriers that divide us, to make suspicions disappear, and to cause hatred to cease. May they strive to be agents of healing and hope, as they help us all live in greater justice and peace.

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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks there will be a period of

morning business until 4:15 today. Following that morning business the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1243, the Transportation bill.

At 4:30 the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of James Comey to be Director of the FBI. I am sorry to report there will be a cloture vote on him at 5:30 today. Our chief law enforcement officer and we had to file cloture.

THE SEQUESTER

Mr. REID. Every respectable economist has said that the shortsighted arbitrary cuts known as sequester will cost American jobs. Medical researchers say these painful cuts will set medical research in this country back decades, potentially costing the world a cure for cancer, flu, AIDS, and many other diseases against which we are on the cusp of making great headway. The sequester we know will cost us investments in education that give children a shot at success and keep American workers competitive. We also know the sequester will slash the safety net that keeps millions of senior citizens, children and veterans and low-income families from descending into poverty.

I know the sequester is as bad for national security as it is for the economy. These cuts have grounded one-third of U.S. combat aircraft, slashed troop training budgets, and kept an aircraft carrier that should have been headed to the Persian Gulf and other places stranded in port instead. Meanwhile, hundreds of thousands of civilian employees of the Department of Defense, employees who support mili-

tary missions carried out by service-members overseas, have been furloughed.

It is not too late to reverse these hard-hearted cuts, cuts that were never supposed to take effect in the first place. The sequester was designed to be so painful it would force Democrats and Republicans to compromise and find a smart, responsible way to reduce the deficit. There was compromise on one side with the Democrats and, of course, none, as usual, with Republicans on the other side.

But we have not given up on reversing these cuts and choosing that responsible path. We have cut the deficit in half over the last 3 years, by more than \$2.6 trillion. While there is more work to be done, we should be making targeted cuts while investing in that which makes America grow.

It is clear we have reduced the debt by \$2.6 trillion and the yearly deficit has been cut in half over the last 3 years.

The way to pursue this type of sound fiscal policy is through regular order—regular order of the budget process. While there is more work to be done in the cuts I have talked about, we should be making targeted cuts while investing in what makes America grow. The American economy is poised to grow. It is growing now—not strong enough, not fast enough, but it is growing. All we have to do is get out of the way.

According to a report released last week by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, reversing the sequester would create an additional 900,000 jobs. It would increase gross domestic product by one percentage point. That is 1

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



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million jobs right there. The United States just dug its way out of the great recession. We have seen 40 straight months of job growth, with private sector employers adding more than 7.2 million jobs. But we cannot afford to reject almost 1 million new jobs. Congress must reverse the sequester and stop manufacturing crises.

If Republicans force us to the brink of another shutdown for ideological reasons, the economy will suffer. I suggest to any of my Republican colleagues who have this idea, give a call to Newt Gingrich. He will return your phone calls. Ask him how it worked. It was disastrous for Newt Gingrich, the Republicans, and the country. It didn't work then and it will not work now. If Republicans threaten catastrophic default on the Nation's bills, the economy will suffer, and that is an understatement.

If Republicans refuse to work with Democrats to negotiate a reasonable budget to reverse these deep cuts, the economy will suffer. It is time to remove the stumbling blocks that are preventing the American economy from recovering and expanding.

It has been 129 days since the Senate passed its reasonable, progrowth budget.

Remember, the Republicans said: We want regular order. We want a budget.

We passed the budget. Now they will not follow regular order. They will not let us even go to conference. We have asked consent to go to conference with the House 17 different times. As long as Senate Republicans refuse to allow Budget Committee chairwoman PATTY MURRAY to negotiate a budget compromise with her House Republican counterparts, the economy is at risk. It is time to set aside partisan differences and work to find common ground.

Passing the Senate Transportation appropriations bill that is on the floor now would be a good step toward restoring regular order. This measure, the Transportation bill, would create jobs rebuilding America's deficient infrastructure and renew the Nation's commitment to make affordable housing available to low-income families.

I commend the appropriations committee, led by BARBARA MIKULSKI. The subcommittee, whose work is now before the Senate, is led by PATTY MURRAY. They have done wonderful work. I believe some of my Republican colleagues are as eager to return to regular order, passing an appropriations bill, as I am. I do believe that. They have to break away from the pack. I hope these reasonable Republicans will continue to work with us to advance this important bipartisan measure.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Mr. REID. Will the Chair announce the business of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). 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 until 4:15 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. 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. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

REMEMBERING COLONEL GEORGE E. "BUD" DAY

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, Sunday brought the sad news that my dear friend Col. George E. "Bud" Day passed away. He was 88 years old. To say he lived a full life would be quite an understatement. His was filled with so many extraordinary experiences, adventures, challenges, accomplishments, and with such love, compassion, and courage that it could have supplied enough experiences, excitement, and satisfaction for 10 lifetimes.

Bud knew defeats and triumphs on a scale few will ever know. He lived in moments filled with every conceivable emotion. He knew terror and suffering. He knew joy and deliverance. He knew solidarity, self-respect, and dignity.

Knowing him as well as I did, I am certain he faced his end satisfied that he had made the most of his time on Earth. He will have faced it with courage as he faced all adversity. He will have faced it with gratitude for the love and companionship for his beloved wife and best friend Dorie, his sons Steve and George, and his twin girls, Sandra and Sonya. He will have faced it with humility for having had the honor to serve his country with distinction in three wars: World War II, the Korean war, and the Vietnam war.

I had the honor of being Bud's friend for almost five decades of his 88 years. We met in 1967 when the Vietnamese left me to die in the prison cell Bud shared with Maj. Norris Overly. Bud and Norris wouldn't let me die. They bathed me, fed me, nursed me, encouraged me, and ordered me back to life. Norris did much of the work, but Bud did all he could considering he too had recently been near death—shot, bombed, beaten savagely by his captors, and his arm broken in three places. He was a hard man to kill, and he expected the same from his subordinates. They saved my life—a big debt to repay, obviously. But more than that, Bud showed me how to save my self-respect and my honor, and that is a debt I can never repay.

Bud was a fierce—and I mean really fierce—resister. He could not be broken in spirit no matter how broken he was

in body. Those who knew Bud after the war could see how tough he was, but, my God, to have known him in prison—confronting our enemies day in and day out, never, ever yielding. He defied men who had the power of life and death over us. To witness him sing the national anthem in response to having a rifle pointed at his face—well, that was something to behold. Unforgettable. No one had more guts than Bud or greater determination to do his duty and then some, to keep faith with his country and his comrades whatever the cost. Bud was my commanding officer but more, he was my inspiration, as he was for all the men who were privileged to serve under him.

Nothing offers more compelling testimony to Bud's guts and determination and his patriotism than the account of his escape from captivity. In the entire war he was the only American who managed to escape from North Vietnam.

In 1967 then-major Bud Day commanded a squadron of F-100s that served as forward air controllers over North Vietnam and Laos. They were called the Mistys, named for Bud's favorite song. Theirs was probably the most dangerous combat duty in the Air Force, and they suffered high casualties.

On August 26 Bud Day was one of those casualties. Bud was shot down by a surface-to-air missile 20 miles inside of North Vietnam. He hit the fuselage of his F-100 when he ejected, breaking his arm, damaging his eye, and injuring his back. Bud was immediately captured by North Vietnamese militia. He was interrogated by his captors in an underground prison camp. When he refused to answer their questions, they staged a mock execution. Then they hung him by his feet for hours and beat him. Believing he was too badly injured to escape, they tied him up loosely and left him guarded by two green teenage soldiers. They misjudged him. On his fifth day of captivity he untied his ropes and escaped.

Bud stayed on the run for about 2 weeks. He wasn't certain how long he was free. He lost track of time. He made it across the DMZ and into South Vietnam. A bomb, however, had fallen near him his second night on the run, striking him with shrapnel, concussing him and rupturing his eardrums. Limping, bleeding, starving, and in great pain, Bud kept heading south across rivers, through dense jungles, over hills, crawling sometimes on his hands and knees, evading enemy patrols and surviving on berries, frogs, and rainwater.

On the last night of Bud's escape he arrived within 2 kilometers of a forward marine. Sensibly judging it more dangerous to approach the guarded base at night than to wait until morning when the marine guards could see he was an American, Bud slept one more night in the jungle.

Early the next morning he encountered a Viet Cong patrol. He was shot