

from. I have said: If you will pare that down from 50 to 25, then I am sure it would be reasonable for the Democrats to have 25. That is a total of 50. Probably it would end up being maybe 20 recorded votes if you, our Republicans, are willing to bring that number down and say: Yes, we will go forward with this bill if we can have 25—move it down from 50 to 25. Now, if we refuse to do that, I am going to go ahead and vote to support cloture and to support our bill.

On the other hand, if Senator TOOMEY and the rest of the Republicans say: No, we want to have all 50—and I look at this list, and I see we have some Members who have as many as 9, and I do not think that is being totally reasonable—so if they say: No, we are not going to bring our number down to 25, then I am going to support the bill. However, if they do agree to bring it down—and I have already talked to the majority side about this—and they refuse to come down to 25, then I would join in opposing cloture on the bill when it comes up.

So I want to make sure there is no misunderstanding right now. I would like to say that I could get ahold of everyone tonight. I have tried. They said at 7:30 they are going to make a decision. It is 7:29 now, so I had to get on record. I do not have time.

I will repeat it one more time. If the Republicans refuse to bring their number down to 25, then I will go ahead and support the bill and support passage of the bill through cloture. If they do agree to do it and the Democratic side, the majority side, decides they are not going to accept the 25 offer, then I will oppose and vote against cloture on the bill.

There you have it.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014—Continued

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on S. 1197, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2014 for military activities of the Department of

Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Carl Levin, Richard J. Durbin, Tim Kaine, Dianne Feinstein, Kay R. Hagan, Barbara A. Mikulski, Joe Donnelly, Mark Udall, Claire McCaskill, Christopher A. Coons, Jeanne Shaheen, Mark R. Warner, Jack Reed, Patty Murray, Bill Nelson, Angus S. King, Jr.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum required under rule XXII be waived.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to 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.

BUDGETARY IMPACTS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it has been only a few short weeks since the needless government shutdown that cost the Treasury more than \$20 billion, disrupted the lives of hundreds of thousands of Federal workers and their families in every State, threatened to wreak havoc with the world's financial markets, and accomplished nothing.

But an important deadline, one critical to determining how we resolve the current budget crisis, is just a few days away. While this approaching deadline does not come with the threat of another government shutdown, if Congress is going to complete work on appropriations bills before the continuing resolution expires on January 15, we need a top-line number from the budget conferees by the end of this week.

By Friday, the budget conferees need to find enough common ground to agree on a level to fund the Federal Government for the remainder of the fiscal year. While many have expressed their doubts, there is no reason this cannot be done. People are fed up with putting the process of setting and funding our national priorities on autopilot. It is an abdication of responsibility and a wasteful way to do business.

It is equally important that the level of funding replace sequestration. A long-term continuing resolution that funds the government at the House level of \$967 billion would be a disaster. Sequestration would become the new normal, funding programs and agencies at levels far below those passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee and below fiscal year 2013.

It is stunning—and frightening—that instead of looking to replace sequestration's devastating cuts, we hear from some Members that it is "working." If their intention is to stunt the eco-

nomics recovery and indiscriminately slash services upon which American families and businesses depend, then I guess they are right. But I don't think most Members of Congress, or most Americans, see it that way.

For those of us who want to support our communities and invigorate and sustain our economic recovery, another year of sequestration would be catastrophic. While we are still trying to gauge the full impact of the first round of cuts this year, one thing is clear—another year would be far worse.

Agencies have exhausted their carry-over funds and creative budgeting options to avoid layoffs, furloughs, and eliminating programs.

Absent a budget agreement, the entire Federal Government, from the Department of Defense to the Department of Labor, will suffer significant, mindless cuts. I have spoken several times about the impact of another full year continuing resolution at the House's funding level.

I want to take a minute to describe what it would mean for America's children, teachers, and families. LIHEAP, which provides lifesaving home energy assistance, would not receive the \$325 million increase over the level included in a continuing resolution, cutting off assistance to about 760,000 more households this winter and next summer. Nearly 40,000 Vermont families rely on LIHEAP in the cold Vermont winters.

Early Head Start Programs won't be expanded as the Senate appropriations bill intended, and the 177,000 children who would have received Head Start services will be turned away. Nearly 1,600 Vermont children depend on this assistance every year.

Schools around the country already facing budget shortfalls look to the Federal Government to fund services to disadvantaged children through title I grants. Those schools would not receive the \$852 million included in the Senate appropriations bill. They would have to look elsewhere for money to provide those services to 1.3 million students in need.

Schools would also lose \$748 million in grants for special education that were included in the Senate appropriations bill, to help cover the costs of employing more than 9,000 additional special education aides in our schools.

NIH would not receive the \$2 billion in additional funds included in the Senate appropriations bill and instead would not be able to award 1,300 new research grants. This means that 1,300 additional opportunities to achieve scientific advances that could lead to lifesaving treatments and cures would be missed opportunities.

Under a continuing resolution, 159,000 families looking for assistance through the section 8 housing program to help keep a roof over their heads will be turned away because the funding won't be there. In Vermont, 774 families would face losing their housing assistance.

The WIC Program won't be able to provide food to the nearly 500,000 infants, children, and families the Senate appropriations bill would help, and working families won't receive the \$291 million in additional funding the Senate provides for childcare subsidies.

Beyond our borders, we would lose the additional \$389 million included in the Senate appropriations bill for global health programs to combat HIV/AIDS and other preventable infectious diseases like malaria, tuberculosis, and pneumonia, as well as malnutrition.

The consequences of such a cut can be measured in lives. Tens of thousands of additional deaths would result from these diseases, tens of thousands of additional children would be orphaned by AIDS, and there would be millions fewer lifesaving immunizations for children, resulting in tens of thousands of deaths that could have been prevented.

A full-year continuing resolution would cut the international development assistance account that supports the basic needs of people in the poorest countries by nearly \$115 million, including for primary education, food security, and clean water and sanitation programs.

The examples go on and on. What we face is, in fact, not a hard choice. It is a choice between doing what is right or scoring political points. The budget conferees have an opportunity to reach meaningful compromise, to replace the "never supposed to happen" sequester, and to prove to the American people that they can put partisanship aside when it is in the national interest.

That is what is at stake, and I commend the chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee, Senator MIKULSKI, and her counterpart in the House, Chairman ROGERS, for the united stand they have taken for the good of the country. I hope the budget conferees follow their example.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT ROSSI

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is a great pleasure to tell the Senate about Mr. Robert Rossi, a Vermonter who captures the distilled essence of Vermont, and who will be celebrating his 100th birthday this Friday, November 22, 2013. Mr. Rossi represents an inextricable link between where my State, and our country, was, and what it has become, over this most remarkable century. Mr. Rossi was born and has always lived in Barre, VT, the same city where my father was born. Even while defending America in Normandy, or honeymooning with his wife in New York City, his home and his heart were always in Barre.

Mr. Rossi grew up in Barre and his father, like my maternal grandparent, immigrated to the United States and Vermont from Italy. He was a product of the Barre school system, and had a football scholarship to Green Mountain Junior College. Shortly after that he was called for service by the United States Army.

He arrived at Camp Edwards on Cape Cod the same day Pearl Harbor was attacked, and he then was stationed in Northern Ireland just before his departure to Normandy on that fateful day in the summer of 1944. When he returned stateside, he did not dwell on his experiences abroad, but rather returned to his beloved home, where he was instrumental in one of Vermont's leading industries for nearly four decades of his life: the Barre granite and stone carving industry. It has been estimated that one-third of all public and private monuments in the United States were crafted from or by Barre's quarries and its international association of sculptors and artisans. Mr. Rossi is a man of true character, and it is my pleasure to call the Senate's attention to this notable citizen of the Green Mountain State.

I join all Vermonters in offering my sincerest congratulations to Robert Rossi for his genuine lifetime of achievement. I would also like to share a recent article from the Rutland Herald and Times Argus that told his remarkable story and captured many accolades about his illustrious life.

I ask unanimous consent that the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Rutland Herald, Nov. 18, 2013]

ROBERT ROSSI, AT 100, HAS ALWAYS KNOWN WHERE HOME IS

(By David Delcore)

Robert Rossi remembers Barre.

Sure the Granite City native, who is now days away from his 100th birthday, will tell you he spent two years at Green Mountain Junior College in Poultney, 20 winters in Tucson, a honeymoon in New York City, and a memorable World War II tour that was highlighted by his mercifully belated arrival at Omaha Beach during the Normandy Invasion. But, if you ask Rossi where he has "lived" for the last 99 years, 360-plus days, you'd better be ready for a one-word reply.

"Barre," he said Sunday as if surprised by the question. "I've never lived anywhere else."

Born on High Holburn Street, Rossi is the son of an immigrant stonecutter who he'll proudly tell you was "the first alderman of Italian descent ever elected in Barre." He'll also tell you that his dad, Antonio Rossi, was influential in acquiring Barre's first fire engine.

Why?

Because while his dad died during the influenza outbreak in 1918, Rossi, who was five at the time, remembers the city's old fire wagons.

"They were pulled by horses," he said. "I remember the horses."

Rossi also remembers the old city stables that were once located on Burnham Meadow—not far from where Capital Candy now does business. He remembers the city Cow Pasture, but not just as the place where the city's workhorses spent some of their spare time, or where folks now like walking dogs.

"There used to be a nine-hole golf course there," he said, crediting the Meadow Brook Golf Club for creating and maintaining it.

Rossi, who has moved only twice in his life—from High Holburn Street where he was born to the Cleary Street home where he has lived, with occasional interruption, since he

was 12—is a product of Barre schools, though none of the ones he attended are schools anymore.

Rossi started out at Ward 5, a now-vacant neighborhood school that the High Holburn Street gang, which included a boatload of the Rossi clan, fondly referred to as "Woodchuck Knoll School." Following the death of his dad, his mother's remarriage and the move to Cleary Street, Rossi attended the old Brook Street School, which is now home to the Learning Together Center, for both fifth- and sixth-grades. He spent seventh grade at the old North Barre School, which has since been converted to apartments, and eighth grade in the ground-floor of what used to be Spaulding High School, but is now the Vermont History Center.

Rossi graduated from the original Spaulding High School in 1931, and while he would eventually head off to Green Mountain Junior College thanks to a football scholarship that limited his tuition payment to \$100 a semester, the Great Depression delayed the start of his post-secondary education for a few years.

Rossi remembers the Depression, which hadn't yet ended when he started taking classes in Poultney.

"I remember getting letters from my mother with 25 cents taped to them," he recalled.

A quarter went a long way back then, according to Rossi, who remembers when cigarettes cost 10 cents a pack, you could get a good ice cream bar for a nickel, and \$20 was more than enough to pay for a weekend in Montreal—food, lodging and transportation included.

Rossi also remembers getting drafted, though he prefers the old-school term "conscripted." He was "27 and single" at the time, it was 1940 and he was a whole lot closer to going to war than he realized at the time.

Rossi remembers the day Pearl Harbor was bombed, and not just because it was the very same day he arrived at Camp Edwards on Cape Cod fresh from Fort Devens.

"That's when we knew we were going to war," he said.

Rossi was right, though his overseas tour didn't start until after a trip through officer training school and a brief stint at Camp McCoy in Wisconsin.

From there it was off to Northern Ireland, where in the run-up to D-day and the invasion of Normandy in the summer of 1944, Rossi, a second lieutenant in the Army, remembers getting a pass to go to London. That's where he spotted a street sign that reminded him of home and tracking down his brother, an Air Force pilot, to borrow a little spending money.

"The sign said: High Holburn Street," said Rossi, who recalls finding his brother, Antonio, between air raids.

According to Rossi, his brother's commander was Jimmy Stewart.

"The actor," he said.

Asked about Omaha Beach, Rossi said he didn't need to check a history book to know it didn't go according to script.

The date was delayed, his platoon was divided, and while one of the landing crafts made it to shore, the propeller on the one he was on was fouled by rope floating in the debris just off the coast of France.

Frogmen were summoned to "un-jam" the propeller of a craft that sat "becalmed" for four hours.

Rossi remembers eventually making it to shore, though it wasn't until the next day that his platoon was reunited and he learned that all of the officers in that first wave were either killed or injured.

"I guess I was lucky," he said.

Rather than dwell on the experience Rossi turned his attention back to Barre, where he