

the Senate on March 12, 2014, at 2:30 p.m.

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

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Max Freedman, an intern in Senator AYOTTE's office, be granted floor privileges for the duration of today's session.

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

#### EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the period for morning business be extended until 8 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### T'UF SHUR BIEN PRESERVATION TRUST AREA ACT

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 299, S. 611.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 611) to make a technical amendment to the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 611

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Sandia Pueblo Settlement Technical Amendment Act".

#### SEC. 2. SANDIA PUEBLO SETTLEMENT TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.

Section 413(b) of the T'uf Shur Bien Preservation Trust Area Act (16 U.S.C. 539m-11(b)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence of paragraph (4), by striking "conveyance" and inserting "title to be conveyed"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(6) FAILURE TO EXCHANGE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—If the land exchange authorized under paragraph (1) is not completed by the date that is 30 days after the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary, on request of the Pueblo and the Secretary of the Interior, shall transfer the National Forest land generally depicted as 'Land to be Held in Trust' on the map entitled 'Sandia Pueblo Settlement Technical Amendment Act' and dated October 18, 2013, to the Secretary of the Interior to be held in trust by the United States for the Pueblo—

"(i) subject to the restriction enforced by the Secretary of the Interior that the land remain undeveloped, with the natural characteristics of the land to be preserved in perpetuity; and

"(ii) consistent with subsection (c).

"(B) OTHER TRANSFERS.—After the transfer under subparagraph (A) is complete, the Secretary of the Interior, with the consent of the Pueblo, shall—

"(i) transfer to the Secretary, consistent with section 411(c)—

"(I) the La Luz tract generally depicted on the map entitled 'Sandia Pueblo Settlement Technical Amendment Act' and dated October 18, 2013; and

"(II) the conservation easement for the Piedra Lisa tract generally depicted on the map entitled 'Sandia Pueblo Settlement Technical Amendment Act' and dated October 18, 2013; and

"(ii) grant to the Secretary a right-of-way for the Piedra Lisa Trail within the Piedra Lisa tract generally depicted on the map entitled 'Sandia Pueblo Settlement Technical Amendment Act' and dated October 18, 2013.".

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time and passed, 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 committee amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 611), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### SUPPORTING A VENEZUELAN DEMOCRACY

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 323, S. Res. 365.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 365) deploring the violent repression of peaceful demonstrators in Venezuela, calling for full accountability for human rights violations taking place in Venezuela, and supporting the right of the Venezuelan people to the free and peaceful exercise of representative democracy.

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

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I would like to express my strong support for S. Res. 365, a resolution I cosponsored deploring the violent repression of peaceful demonstrators in Venezuela, calling for full accountability for human rights violations taking place in Venezuela, and supporting the right of the Venezuelan people to the free and peaceful exercise of representative democracy.

Since February 4, 2014, the Venezuelan people have taken to the streets on a daily basis to express frustration with the country's high inflation, corruption, food shortages, lack of press freedoms, lack of due process, violent crime, and other grievances. Addressing these legitimate concerns is a basic function of a democratic government. Instead, we have seen a crackdown on protests through unlawful use of force, a stifling of the media, and the detention of opposition leaders. Over 22 people have been killed, hundreds injured, and over 1,000 people arrested during these protests.

The Venezuelan Government is an elected government and, as such, it should act like a democratic government by immediately addressing the core concerns of its people through meaningful dialogue, halting the use of force, and providing a safe space for the Venezuelan people to express their views peacefully. Without a genuine, transparent conversation to address the central concerns raised by the protestors, Venezuela faces a bleak future.

Contrary to comments by the Venezuelan Government, this crisis is not about the United States; it is about the Venezuelan people. But the crisis does have implications for peace and security in the hemisphere and the broader international community. The United States always has stood and always will stand for basic freedoms, including freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and freedom of the press. We will not back down on protecting and promoting these universal values, nor should the international community. It is incumbent upon neighboring countries and regional organizations to be vocal during this critical point, to take a stand for universal human rights, and to expect the highest level of respect for representative democracy from its hemispheric neighbor.

Today, we see tension and unrest around the world. Each situation is unique; however, the desire for fundamental human rights is universally recognized. I call on my colleagues and nations around the world to stand up for these basic freedoms and support a path toward a stable, peaceful, and prosperous Venezuela.

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions 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. 365) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2122

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I understand 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 legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2122) to amend XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and to improve Medicare and Medicaid payments, and for other purposes.

Mr. CASEY. I 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 be

read for a second time on the next legislative day.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, 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. 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.

#### DIFFERING VIEWS

Mr. REID. I apologize to the Presiding Officer and all the staff, but I have been conducting for the last hour and a half or more a meeting in the classified room dealing with Ukraine. I am sorry I couldn't be here, but I just couldn't because I had to conduct that meeting.

Mr. President, the senior Senator from Iowa is my friend, but I am quite disappointed in my friend the senior Senator from Iowa. This afternoon he delivered another one of his "Alice in Wonderland" speeches. He has delivered a few of these, but the one today especially is a view of reality that only exists in fairy tales.

He complains that I file too many cloture motions. His complaint is like that of an arsonist who complains about having to hear the sirens of too many fire engines.

The real reason I have had to file so many cloture motions is because Republicans have engaged in a systematic pattern of obstruction—and not last week, not last month, but this has been going on for 5 years. We have come to see this as something of the pinnacle, the landmark, the zenith of obstructionism led by my Republican colleagues.

I have now had to file cloture motions during the time I have been the majority leader more than 500 times. Lyndon Johnson, who had the job for 6 years—I have had it a little longer than that—only had to face one filibuster. I have had to deal with 500.

I don't file cloture, as the Senator from Iowa would like folks to think, in this fairy tale world he believes in, I guess, because I enjoy it. It is not something I enjoy. It takes a lot of my time, the staff's time, the Senate's time, and the country's time. I don't like to do it. I file these motions because Republicans have made it clear that we can't get a vote on anything without going to cloture, and that is basically true.

What is the solution of the Senator from Iowa to the problem? Listen to this. Now, this really is "Alice in Wonderland." He proposes it should take longer to file. He proposes it should take longer to file cloture. Now, that is

some dreamland that I don't understand. He says the solution to the problem of Republican obstructionism is to make obstruction easier.

We have on the Executive Calendar 140 nominations. We have Ambassadors—there is an Executive Calendar here someplace. The pages have stripped all the desks of the calendars, but they are always around. The Republic of Mauritania, the Republic of Colombia—South America is a continent that has been our friend for decades—we have most all countries in Africa waiting to have Ambassadors appointed: Zambia, Niger, Peru, Belize, Albania, Angola, Palau, Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Lesotho, Namibia, Tanzania, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Hungary, Iceland, U.S. Human Rights Council.

I am not going to take more of the staff's time, but throughout this Executive Calendar there are about 40 Ambassadors—40 Ambassadors—who are waiting to be confirmed and 35 or so judges. Do the math yourself. That is 75 or 80 very important jobs they have stopped.

So my friend from Iowa is living in a dream world. I don't know where it exists, but it doesn't exist here in the Senate. And his solution is to give them more time? Can you imagine that. This is an "Alice in Wonderland" speech from the Senator from Iowa, and he should have better use of his time than playing fairy tales in the Senate.

The obstruction led by Republican Senators from all over this country is an embarrassment to our country. It is preventing the people of this country from getting what they need.

Now, I know people around the country are not too worried about an Ambassador to some foreign country, but to our country it is important. Our foreign policy is important. Being able to get work done here legislatively is important, and we have been stymied every step of the way.

I am sorry to say my friend has stepped over the line with his speech here today about what a terrible thing has happened here, that we have filed cloture 500 times. The record speaks for itself.

#### ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2014

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, March 13, 2014; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a pe-

riod of morning business until 10:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and the time be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half; and that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of S. 1086, the child care and development block grant reauthorization bill.

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

#### PROGRAM

Mr. DURBIN. Rollcall votes are expected throughout the day tomorrow in an effort to complete action on the child care and development block grant bill. We are also working on an agreement on the flood insurance bill. Senators will be notified when votes are scheduled.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:43 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 13, 2014, at 9:30 a.m.

#### CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 12, 2014:

##### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

SARAH BLOOM RASKIN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

BRUCE HEYMAN, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO CANADA.

##### THE JUDICIARY

CAROLYN B. MCHUGH, OF UTAH, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT.

MATTHEW FREDERICK LEITMAN, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN.

JUDITH ELLEN LEVY, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN.

LAURIE J. MICHELSON, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN.

LINDA WIVIANNE PARKER, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN.

##### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

JAMES H. SHELTON III, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF EDUCATION.

##### NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

FRANCE A. CORDOVA, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS.

##### OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

HEATHER L. MACDOUGALL, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 27, 2017.