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Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TIM Kaine, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

God of our forebears, whose almighty hand leads forth in beauty all the starry band, thank You for the opportunity to live in a nation which seeks "to establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity." May each day we strive to contribute to the strength of this land so that the dream of our Framers will become a continuous reality. Use our Senators as they seek to make America a beacon of freedom for our world.

Lord, so often we pray for our lawmakers but neglect to intercede for those who support them, providing wind beneath their wings. Bless all who labor for liberty. Give us traveling mercies during the August recess.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. Leahy).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, August 1, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TIM Kaine, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. Kaine thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

CHAPLAIN BARRY BLACK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, may I say, while our good chaplain is still in the Chamber, he has such a way with words. I am so impressed with the prayer this morning, where he recognized the way to get things done—as little as it is. If we could do more, we would get more, with this good staff. So I really appreciate the prayer and the Chaplain.

I extend my appreciation for the hard work of this staff. Everyone in this room works hard, whether they are police officers or enrolling clerks. They do everything. I am really grateful for what they do to help us all look better. I wish we did more so we would look better, but that is the way it is.

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 471.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 471, S.J. Res. 19, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, if any, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 2 p.m. this afternoon. Senators will be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each during that period of time.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2772
AND S. 2773

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2772) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2773) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, for border security, law enforcement, humanitarian assistance, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to these bills.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am satisfied and pleased that we have a number of Senators on the floor wishing to speak. I am going to say just a few brief words, and then we are going to go into a quorum call until the Republican leader comes. He has some things to do here. So we will wait for him.

Mr. President, we find ourselves at the end of this work period having done not a lot. There is a lot of blame to go around, and we could spend all day blaming each other, but the fact is we need to do better.

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



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I am grateful, though; yesterday we were able to pass the veterans conference report. It wasn't what we passed out of the Senate, but it was OK. It will help. I admire very much the people who were able to get that done.

BERNIE SANDERS worked extremely hard, and I am not sure he could have completed that without the work of the senior Senator from Arizona.

The bill was dead, the conference was really dead, a week ago. But the senior Senator from Arizona weighed in, and with his influence with Democrats and Republicans, it was made possible to move forward and was brought back on track.

I am surprised my friend from Arizona is here. I acknowledge the work that he did. Others worked on it, of course, but without his McCain-like advocacy last Friday and Thursday night, it wouldn't have happened.

Mr. President, I am not only grateful for the conference report we got on the veterans matter but also the highway bill. Now, I think we need a long-term highway bill, and I think we will get one in the near future. The work done by Senator BOXER and others to have a long-term bill because they wanted us to finish something this year didn't come to fruition. We passed it here. But we worked together and have a bill that will allow construction to continue.

In the House, I regret they weren't able to overcome Republican resistance to funding a response to the humanitarian crisis at the border. Again, we could stand here for the next couple hours and affix blame as to whose fault it is. The fact is I don't think it is going to get done.

I watched the House closely. I have heard commentators. It is surprising but I am told that even Charles Krauthammer today said: This is a little unusual. They weren't able to complete their work yesterday and the day before. So what they have done is demanded that President Obama do things on his own, for which they have sued him. That is a little inconsistent. One of the Republican senior House Members was on "Morning Joe" this morning. He said the same thing. But the House appears to be heading from bad to worse as the House Republican majority hunts for votes on border policy.

So let's be clear about what is happening today on the other side of the Capitol.

House Republicans will vote to deport children who have been living in the United States their entire lives, all in a pathetic attempt to appease the tea party. The worse the bill gets the more votes they are getting over there. That is the harsh, wrong-headed idea. If the House does pass a bill, I can't imagine it could be cleared on either side over here.

MAKING CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 220, H.J. Res. 76; that a Reid-McConnell-Mikulski substitute amendment at the desk providing emergency appropriations for the Iron Dome defense system in Israel be agreed to; that the joint resolution, as amended, be read a third time and passed; that the Reid-McConnell-Mikulski title amendment, which is at the desk, be agreed to; and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid on the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to the request?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Reserving the right to object—

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Let me say to my friend, the majority leader, this is a good example of our being able to put aside partisan considerations and work together to help our good friend Israel.

I particularly want to salute Senator GRAHAM and Senator MCCAIN, who have been absolutely relentless in their efforts to make sure we send this important signal to Israel at a very tough time for them. They are being, in my view, criticized by everyone for pursuing a policy that I am absolutely certain we would pursue if somebody across our border were launching missiles at our civilian population.

I think it is important for us to send a signal that the United States stands behind one of its best friends—if not its best friend—in the world.

I think the Prime Minister of Israel pretty well summed it up when he said: There is no moral equivalency here. Hamas launches missiles on civilians, and Israel warns civilians when it attempts to attack. And Hamas uses its own civilians to protect its missiles. There is no moral equivalency whatsoever.

So as much of the world levels its criticism at Israel, I think it is important for the United States to say: What nonsense to suggest that the Israelis are doing anything that almost any country in the world would have done had its citizens been threatened by a neighbor as Israel has experienced.

So, obviously, I do not object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I wish to take a moment to thank both leaders for their efforts in bringing about this much-needed—not only the funding but the signal that the Congress will send and the President will sign that we are supporting them.

We all know the latest news is, tragically, that a proposed cease-fire has broken down. Apparently an Israeli soldier has been captured. And all of us know the ramifications of that in the future, the value the Israeli Govern-

ment and people rightfully put on each one of their citizens who serve.

I thank again our majority leader and the Republican leader for coming together on this most important signal. This isn't just about money. It is a signal from the American people and the American taxpayers that we are with the Israelis, because if they do not have Iron Dome, they can't defend themselves. It is that simple. The Iron Dome is the ability to keep innocent civilians and neighborhoods and families from being destroyed by these barrages of literally thousands of incoming rockets.

Again, I thank my friend. There has been no one more relentless in this effort than the Senator from South Carolina. I yield for him.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, the time is blurred now. Yesterday, or early this morning, a very bad occurrence happened to the people of Israel. During a cease-fire which they agreed to, an Israeli unit apparently was attacked by a Hamas suicide bomber. After that attack there was a charge against the unit in question, and apparently a soldier has been kidnapped and taken to the tunnels.

It is so appropriate that today, of all days, the Senate speaks in one voice.

I cannot thank Senator REID enough for making this happen. Senator MCCONNELL has worked to make sure it got cleared on our side, and it finally has.

They are running out of Iron Dome missiles to protect themselves. To whom do they turn? To us.

Mr. President, \$225 million is a lot of money, but it is a rounding error in the budget.

It is not only the missiles that matter; it is the message that goes with the missiles: We are with you. Here are the missiles. Use them to defend yourself. We will stand with you on the battlefield. We will stand with you in the court of public opinion, and we are going to push back against the United Nations, which is becoming more and more anti-Israeli. As dysfunctional as the Congress has been, this is one of our finer moments.

We are about to leave here soon with a lot of work undone, but let it be said that we did have the foresight and the ability and, quite frankly, the moral decency to end on a positive note.

You can say a lot about this Congress—and much criticism is deserved—but here is what you cannot say: We left Israel in the lurch. In a bipartisan manner we were there when they needed us the most.

To our friends in Israel: Stay as long as you need to stay. Do whatever you need to do.

To our friends in Palestine: We grieve when children are killed. There is no more innocent person on the planet than a child.

To the Palestinian people: Reject Hamas and seek peace. We are not your