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Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

We have thought, O God, of Your loving-kindness. You have blessed our Nation far more than we deserve. You have provided us with a goodly land of spacious skies and golden waves of grain. You have helped us create a durable government of, by, and for the people. You have protected us through wars and rumors of war.

May our lawmakers show their gratitude for Your loving-kindness by being responsible stewards of Your generous gifts. Give them the wisdom to protect the fragile gift of freedom. Lord, unite them in their commitment to do what is required to keep America one Nation controlled by Your sovereignty, with liberty and justice for all.

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.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it was good to see Democrats finally bring an end to their weeks-long filibuster of the Homeland Security funding bill. Once the measure we voted on

yesterday is complete, the Senate will consider sensible legislation from Senator COLLINS.

The Collins bill is really quite simple. It would protect our democracy from the most egregious example of Executive overreach we saw back in November. It is overreach described by President Obama himself as "ignoring the law." The Collins measure simply takes the President at his word and helps him follow the law instead of ignoring it.

It is hard to see how any Senator could oppose such a good, common-sense idea. So we look forward to that vote.

NET NEUTRALITY RULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on a different matter, later today the Obama administration's FCC will take up a proposal by the President to strike a blow to the future of innovation in our country. It is the so-called net neutrality rule.

The growth of the Internet and the rapid adoption of mobile technology have been a great American success story, and they were made possible by a light regulatory touch. In fact, it is this bipartisan light touch consensus that allowed innovators to develop and sell the products people want and to create the kind of high-quality jobs Americans need without waiting around for government permission.

The Obama administration needs to get beyond its 1930s rotary telephone mindset and embrace the future. That means encouraging innovation, not suffocating it under the weight of an outdated bureaucracy and poorly named regulations such as this one.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the essential Department of Homeland Security faces a shutdown in less than 48 hours. At 12:01 a.m. Saturday morning the government will be forced to shut down the most essential part of our government set up to protect the homeland.

It is really unthinkable that America is less than 2 days away from letting its guard down in the midst of such rampant global terrorism. Yesterday, three Brooklyn men were arrested for joining ISIS. FBI Director Comey said yesterday that his agency is investigating suspected ISIS supporters in every State—all 50 States.

As Republican Congressman PETER KING said:

We can't allow DHS not [to] be funded. People think we're crazy. There are terrorist attacks all over the world, and we're talking about closing down Homeland Security.

And listen to this sentence:

This is like living in the world of the crazy people.

Republican Congressman PETER KING of New York has said that what is going on with the work of the Republicans here in the Senate and the House is like living in the world of crazy people.

Yesterday the Senate voted to begin the process of considering passing a clean Homeland Security funding bill. Without an agreement to speed up the process, a vote on final passage would take place on Sunday. As I said yesterday, we on this side of the aisle are willing to expedite passage of this bill by consent. We are ready to do it right now.

Once a clean full-year funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security is passed and signed into law, we look forward to debating how to best fix our Nation's broken immigration system, just as we did 20 months ago with the help of the Presiding Officer and others.

Would the Chair announce the business of the day.

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



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RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 240, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 5, H.R. 240, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

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. RUBIO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess from 12:45 p.m. until 1:45 p.m.

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

Mr. RUBIO. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Are we in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are on the motion to proceed.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I will be speaking on the bill before us.

Madam President, we are just days away from an unthinkable government shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security. A government shutdown of the Department whose mission is to protect the citizens of this country is reckless and dangerous while we are under threat of attack by terrorist groups.

What kind of message does it send to ISIS, to cyber criminals, and to criminal drug gangs if Congress can't keep the Department of Homeland Security open?

This weekend we learned that a terrorist group from Somalia, al-Shabaab, released an online video calling for attacks on the Mall of America in Minnesota, as well as malls in Canada and England.

Just yesterday we learned that three Brooklyn, NY, men were arrested for

plotting to travel to Syria to join ISIS. If they weren't successful in getting to Syria, they allegedly planned to commit an act of terrorism in the United States, and one even offered to kill President Obama if ordered to do so.

The role of the Department of Homeland Security in protecting our country from these threats and from so many others cannot be overstated. It is DHS that is working with State and local officials in Minnesota to coordinate a response to the Mall of America threat, and it is DHS and the Secret Service that help provide the counterterrorism and intelligence-gathering efforts that led to the arrests of the Brooklyn men who wanted to do harm in this country.

Referencing yesterday's arrests in Brooklyn, New York City Police Commissioner Bill Bratton said that this is not the time to engage in activities that would threaten our counterterrorism capabilities and effectively hold our counterterrorism agencies hostage to political machinations. This is not the time to be engaging in political rhetoric and political grandstanding.

I think Commissioner Bratton is right. Our Nation is already on high alert for terror threats after attacks in Sydney, Australia, and Ottawa, Canada, and in Paris. The Mall of America threat and the Brooklyn arrests reinforce the fact that we need our law enforcement community operating on all cylinders. Sadly, these aren't isolated threats.

A few weeks ago I spoke with the deputy commissioner of the New York City Police Department. He told me about the many terror attacks that have been thwarted in New York City since 9/11. He credited DHS, the funding, and programs that are coordinated through DHS and the personnel there for helping New York to prevent attacks from happening.

I have heard the same thing at home in New Hampshire from our law enforcement and first responders. I was in the town of Hampton, which is a coastal community, on Monday of this week. They talked about the importance of DHS support in developing a unified command for all of law enforcement in New Hampshire. They talked about the importance of the fusion center that is funded through the Department of Homeland Security because of the intelligence-gathering they do there and how they share that information with law enforcement agencies all across New Hampshire. Then they took me in and showed me a diagram of a human trafficking case that they are working on with the help of the Department of Homeland Security.

So this is not just about the big cities in the United States, it is about our rural communities, and it is about States across this country that rely on the Department of Homeland Security to help with their internal security. Yet here we are, less than 2 days away from shutting down the Department of Homeland Security because of unrelated ideological disagreements.

I am, however, very encouraged by recent developments here in the Senate, with yesterday's 98-to-2 vote to allow the Senate at some point in the future—hopefully sometime today—to pass a clean, full-year funding bill for DHS. I again applaud Senators McConnell and Reid for their efforts to get us to this point. I think we need leaders who are willing to work together, who are willing to encourage us here in the Senate. We saw that in the last few days with Senators McConnell and Reid.

Once the Senate acts, however, we will need the House of Representatives to join us in putting aside our ideological and political differences and passing a bill without controversial riders, a bill that will fund the Department of Homeland Security.

As we have discussed in this Chamber, there are disagreements about immigration and about the President's Executive action. I am certainly happy to have debate about that. I know there are others who are happy to have a debate. But first we need to fund the Department of Homeland Security. We need to put safety and security ahead of our ideological differences. We are just 2 days away from a devastating shutdown of DHS. We do not have time to waste. I certainly hope that we will act quickly here and that the House will also act quickly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

NET NEUTRALITY

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, a battle has been raging online in the past year. Millions of citizens, companies, innovators, and entrepreneurs have been sounding an alarm calling us to electronic arms. These 21st-century Netizens took to the street and they took to the Net. They raised their voices and demanded that the FCC protect the world's greatest platform for communications and commerce.

Today we declare victory. Today we say the economy and the free expression of ideas depend on Net neutrality. Today we say an open and free Internet is as important as keeping our air and water clean and our roads and highways safe. Today we say Net neutrality is here to stay. Today is Internet freedom and innovation day.

Just today the Federal Communications Commission is making historic decisions to enshrine Net neutrality protections. The Commission is voting to use its power to protect the tremendous power of the Internet. This battle for Net neutrality means that the Internet is protected for decades to come. It is protected for all the students and startups, for all the businesses and online buyers, for all of the inventors, the innovators, and the Internet users.

By banning paid prioritization, blocking, and throttling, the FCC is applying the principles of nondiscrimination—which is what Net neutrality really is—nondiscrimination to the