

speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I rise for a minute to talk about trade between the United States and our trading partners around the world.

To make the point of my remarks, I ask rhetorically for everybody in the auditorium and the Senate Chamber to answer these questions:

Are you willing to cut American sales of goods and services by over \$2 trillion?

I think the answer would be a resounding no.

Secondly, are you ready to diminish or lose 39.8 million jobs?

Nobody in here wants to give up \$2.3 trillion in American business, and everybody wants more jobs in the middle class, and nobody wants to cost America 39 million jobs. But that is exactly what is going to happen if we don't pass TPA, if we don't enter into trade agreements and aggressively work to make the three pending trade agreements the United States has workable for our country.

Yesterday I listened as Members of this body came to the floor to talk against trade and talk against the trade promotion authority. For the benefit of our new Members, trade promotion authority is our authorization to give the President the parameters, the limitations, and the prerogative to negotiate trade agreements, which come back to us for a final ratification up or down. That is a good way to do business. The world recognizes that if our President has trade promotion authority, he can sit down across the table from them and he can make a deal, and it is only subject to one vote of the U.S. Senate. If we leave it as it is now, where there is no trade promotion authority, then we can vote on every amendment, every prerogative, every limitation, every opportunity, and make negotiations for the administration and our country impossible.

We have three pending agreements before the United States of America: first, the trade promotion authority for the President; second, the African Growth and Opportunity Act, which expires in September of this year; next is the trade and investment partnership with Europe; and lastly is the trans-Pacific trade agreement with the Pacific Rim. All three of those agreements are important for us to nego-

tiate and close the deal on. Yet, without passing TPA, we can do none.

Ambassador Froman and the administration are doing an outstanding job of representing the United States. I have traveled with him to the African Union in Africa to work on the goal. I was with him yesterday afternoon. I talked with him about some of the obstacles we have in terms of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and I have talked to him about the transatlantic trade and promotion act—all of which we need to pass and all of which he needs to be able to negotiate. But without TPA, the United States of America is sitting at the table but they can't make a deal, and the President doesn't have the authority that he needs and that he says he wants.

Most of the opposition I have heard on the floor of the Senate comes from the people in the President's own party. In the last two State of the Union Addresses, the President of the United States has underlined the importance of TPA. He said it again this year. But yesterday seven Members of his party came to the floor to talk against trade promotion authority.

It is time for us to sit around the table and talk about \$2.3 trillion in business for our country and 39.8 million jobs in our country. Let's talk about how we can increase those jobs. In my State of Georgia, 1.2 million jobs are directly export-related. The Congress of the United States appropriated \$706 million over the next 6 years for the deepening and expansion of the Savannah Harbor in Savannah, GA. The Panama Canal is being widened and next year will open to the ships of the 21st century. Are they going to go somewhere else if we don't do trade promotion authority? Probably so. We all saw what happened last week when the west coast shut down because of the longshoremen's strike and what an impact it had on our economy. That is the kind of impact we are going to have if we don't do trade promotion authority for the President.

It is ironic that almost unanimously the Republican Members of the Senate are for trade promotion authority, and it appears, after yesterday's speeches, that a significant majority of the Democratic Party is against it. Yet their President is for it.

All of us are for jobs. All of us are for business. All of us are for economic activity. It is time we put our differences aside and delineate for the President of the United States the negotiating parameters, the negotiating authority, and the ability we grant to him to make deals in the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership and the African Growth and Opportunity Act. All three will mean jobs not just for my State of Georgia but for our country. All three will be good for our national defense and our security. People don't tend to fight with or bomb people with whom they do business. The more trade agreements we have, the more

business we share, the more exchanges of our currency and economic prosperity, the better off our country is, the better off our security is, and the better off are jobs for those in the middle class.

I thank the Presiding Officer for the opportunity to speak from the floor, and I encourage all my Members in the Senate, Republican and Democrat alike, to dedicate themselves when we come back to expeditiously bringing up trade promotion authority, delineating our differences, negotiating those differences, and giving our President the opportunity to create more jobs for America, more jobs for Georgia, more jobs for West Virginia, and more jobs for our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

REMEMBERING FATHER THEODORE HESBURGH

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam President, back in 1973 a young man caught a lucky break that changed his life. That young man was I, and it was my acceptance letter to the University of Notre Dame that opened up the gates of opportunity for me.

Last night, the beloved president emeritus of Notre Dame, Father Theodore Hesburgh, passed away at the age of 97. On his last day, Father Ted said Mass in the morning and passed away 12 hours later. He counseled Presidents and Popes, but he was first and foremost a priest—one who ministered to the homeless, the poor, and those in need—and that is when he was also the happiest.

We were so lucky to have him touch our lives, and those of us in Indiana were fortunate enough to experience him as our friend and neighbor. Nobody who ever walked the streets of South Bend could forget Father Ted driving around in his little Ford Mustang, giving a wave to everybody he saw.

Our country and the world is a better place because of Father Ted. He loved his God, his country, and Notre Dame, and he ministered to anyone who asked him for help.

Father Hesburgh grew up near Syracuse, NY, and was ordained and became a priest in 1943. He promptly asked that his first assignment as a priest be as the chaplain of a naval aircraft carrier. The leaders of the Holy Cross religious order were not surprised, as they knew of Father Ted's great patriotism, his love of the U.S. Navy, and his devotion to our servicemembers. However, they asked him to stay at Notre Dame and minister to the families and servicemembers who were training at the time at Vetville at Notre Dame. As always, Father Ted smiled, took the assignment, and worked nonstop. That began a journey that included the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Congressional Gold Medal, 16 Presidential appointments, and 150 honorary degrees. But more important to Father

Ted than all of these awards were the millions of souls he nourished, said Mass with, prayed for, and guided to a wonderful life.

When we look at Father Ted's amazing accomplishments at Notre Dame, we can't help but see what a stronger academic institution and better and more inclusive place it has become and that he left behind. Father Ted broke down the barriers and admitted women to Notre Dame back in the early 1970s, which changed the place forever and made Notre Dame a home for everyone. My wife and daughter, both of whom graduated from the university, were direct beneficiaries of his wisdom and his vision.

Father Hesburgh stood up to Presidents whenever necessary, stood together with Martin Luther King for civil rights, and ministered to those in poverty and need every chance he could.

Father Ted never gave a second thought about preaching truth to power; it helped to define who he was. We marked 50 years last July since he linked arms with Martin Luther King, Jr., in Soldier Field, Chicago, and sang "We Shall Overcome" when others turned down the invitation to be there. Father Ted believed in doing what was right, not what was easy. Next week I will travel to Selma for the 50th anniversary of the start of the marches there, and I will take Father Ted's example with me on that journey.

He expected doing what is right and not what is easy or popular from his students as well. He had a big heart, and he wanted his students to do their best, but a lack of effort was never an acceptable way of doing business with Father Ted. As a student, I remember seeing his light on in his little dorm room with his iron cot at midnight or 2 a.m. Every student there knew that meant Father Ted was open for business. Students would stop by and seek a comforting word if a parent had just passed away or when worried about "How am I ever going to be able to pay the next tuition bill?" or when they looked at their grade point average and said "How am I ever going to be here for other reasons next semester?" or if they had personal heartbreaks. Father Ted was there for all of us to talk with. He wanted every student to know they were loved and cared about and special, just like the cooks and gardeners and professors and the people of Notre Dame he went up to, shook hands with, smiled at, and gave encouragement to every day.

God bless you, Father Ted. I would never be here in the Senate without your kindness and your example. And there are Domers—as Notre Dame students are known—all over the world who know you helped give them the chance to open doors, to be given opportunities, and to have a better life that never would have happened without you.

There is a saying on the door of the Sacred Heart Basilica at the Univer-

sity. It says, "God, Country, Notre Dame." Father Hesburgh lived that every day.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator withhold his request?

Mr. DONNELLY. I will.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

VENEZUELA

Mr. RUBIO. Madam President, I want to speak about the ongoing crisis in Venezuela—something that doesn't capture a lot of attention in the headlines because we have situations going on in the Middle East, as we have seen the horrifying reality of what ISIS is doing, just this week kidnapping more Christians.

As we look at that situation in the Middle East, we should remind ourselves that there is a sectarian component to this that extends beyond ISIS's desire to convert the entire region to their version of radical Sunni Islam, but it also includes driving out all the Christians from the Middle East, and that is why they are specifically being targeted for brutalization. We have seen it again this week, and our heart breaks; and it should move us to move even faster in our efforts to destroy them. We can do this.

I also know the world's attention is being paid to Ukraine where a delicate ceasefire is being violated by Russians, both Russian regular troops, by the way, who make incursions into Ukraine to fight side by side with rebel forces against the central government of Kiev, but also the weaponry that they continue to harm them with and the heavy shelling that at times comes across the border from Russia into Ukraine.

These are significant issues we are being confronted with, and I understand why our attention is being paid to these things. But there is something happening in our own hemisphere that is not getting our attention, and I hope to use a few moments on the floor of the Senate to call attention to it, and that is the horrifying human rights catastrophe of Venezuela.

Venezuela is a rich country—rich in oil and rich in people. Its people are well-educated, hard-working, talented. It is the cradle of democracy in Latin America and in the Western Hemisphere; but over the last 3 years especially it has spiraled downward and out of control.

A once rich and prosperous nation has shortages of everyday goods from toilet paper to soap, with people having to wait in long lines. There is no U.S. embargo on Venezuela. There are no economic sanctions on Venezuela that they can blame on us or anyone else. It is due simply and entirely to the mismanagement and incompetence of Nicolas Maduro, the clown who runs that country, and the thugs who surround him in his gangster-style government.

Venezuela ostensibly portrays itself as a democracy but in reality it is not. The court system is completely controlled by the government of Maduro. The elections are constantly manipulated by Maduro. There is no freedom of the press. For example, the government gets unlimited hours to talk on television about whatever they want, and the opposition gets virtually none. Newspapers that oppose the government find that they cannot import newsprint—the actual paper—so they can't print. Other media outlets have been either bought or the owners have been forced out of the country and been bought and turned over to owners more friendly to the government. The point is Venezuela is not a democracy, or is a democracy in name only.

Beyond that, it is a government that is losing control and for the first time a few weeks ago or months ago authorized the National Guard to use deadly force on protesters. So it should not surprise us that earlier this week a young man—a high school student—was shot and killed in one of those protests, and we should expect to see more of this in the days and weeks to come, unfortunately. I hope I am wrong and pray that I am wrong, but I believe that is where they are headed, because there is no way out of this mess for the government.

In fact, their situation is so dire that one of the things that has allowed them to keep the elite on the side of Maduro is the gas subsidy. Gasoline is very cheap in Venezuela because it is subsidized by the government. I predict over the next few weeks or months the Venezuelan Government is going to have to go to the people and say we have to take away the subsidy. And when that happens, Maduro may lose the support that is even around him. That is why he is being so careful about announcing it, but they are going to have to do it. There are no ifs, ands, or buts about it. And when they do, it could quickly spiral out of control as well.

There are reports of coup attempts internally, with some of the military starting to bristle at the heavy-handedness of this government there, and that is something worth watching. The point is Venezuela is spiraling out of control. We need to pay attention to this because it is happening in our own hemisphere. It is happening in our own backyard. It has the ability and the potential not just to dramatically impact the people of Venezuela, but the countries of the region and even our own. I don't think enough attention is being paid to this, while every single day the brutality continues.

I called attention to this for the first time last year in February when the first wave of protests happened. We worked diligently to try to achieve sanctions on the individuals responsible for these human rights violations. Thanks to my colleagues here who were able to pass a bill that authorized the administration to impose sanctions