

the DHS funding issue, and while that is occurring, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 2:10 p.m., recessed subject to the call of the Chair and reassembled at 8:19 p.m. when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

MORNING BUSINESS

IMMIGRATION POLICY MEMORANDA ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, the actions the Senate took today to fund the Department of Homeland Security should not be construed to accept, endorse, affirm or acquiesce in the memoranda issued by the Department related to immigration policy. A majority of the Senate has voted repeatedly over the last few weeks to advance legislation that would, if enacted, prohibit the Department from implementing the policies reflected in those memoranda. I and my colleagues in the majority who voted to fund the Department today did so to avoid a shutdown of its operations, many of which are necessary to safeguard our Nation. In voting to fund the Department, we were also mindful of the fact that the policies and directives that are embodied in these memoranda, and to which we object, are the subject of a preliminary injunction issued by the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas, which is preventing the Department from implementing them.

TRIBUTE TO ARLENE AND ALAN ALDA

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, Marcelle and I met Arlene and Alan Alda on a trip with Senator Lloyd Bentsen. We had dinner together but I had a chance to talk to Alan Alda about our mutual Italian heritage. Later I told my Italian-American mother how nice a couple they were. She said, basically, what would I expect? With an Italian background, they would have to be nice.

The New York Times recently ran an article about this remarkable couple, focusing on her prolific writing, and his acting and writing, but especially their ability to maintain a wonderful marriage and a sense of life. I wanted to make sure my fellow Senators and anybody else who reads the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD would read this profile. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the article from the New York Times entitled “There’s Always Room for Rum Cake.”

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

[From the New York Times, Feb. 13, 2015]

THERE’S ALWAYS ROOM FOR RUM CAKE

(By Lois Smith Brady)

Arlene Alda, 81, and her husband, the actor Alan Alda, 79, say that one secret to a long-lasting marriage (theirs has been going for almost 58 years) is forgetfulness, which comes naturally to them at this point.

The Aldas, who discussed their decades together by telephone, with Ms. Alda also weighing in later by email, haven’t had a serious argument for the last 20 years, she said, primarily because they can no longer remember for very long whether they are angry with each other or why.

“I have a short memory, and so does he,” Ms. Alda said. “Was that always true? I don’t recall.”

Both emanate warmth and thoughtfulness in the way of beloved English professors or concerned therapists. Mr. Alda, whose career in television and theater has been as remarkably durable as his marriage, and Ms. Alda, a writer and photographer, possess laughs that are like old jeans: comfortable and well used.

Ms. Alda said that laughter is “the real glue that keeps us happily and willingly stuck together.” They are definitely not the kind of couple who sit silently across the table from each other. “We’re both loud laughers,” she said. “Guffawing ones.”

He said: “I have a very highfalutin notion about laughter. I think when you laugh you make yourself momentarily vulnerable. Your defenses are not up, and if you can stay in a playful mood, where you are susceptible to laughter, your chances of being antagonistic with each other are lower.”

In general, they do not seem to act their ages. She described a recent afternoon: “I have a blurb to write for someone’s book. I have soup I want to cook. I have a good chicken I want to roast. I have a book I’m reading that I want to finish. I have email correspondence. I have Facebook posts.”

Her 19th book, “Just Kids From the Bronx,” a collection of vignettes about 65 noteworthy people who grew up in rough Bronx neighborhoods and escaped in their own idiosyncratic ways, is to be published next month.

Ms. Alda, who grew up in the Bronx herself and is a Hunter College graduate, met Mr. Alda in 1956 while he was attending Fordham University. They connected at a dinner party on the Upper West Side when a rum cake accidentally fell onto the kitchen floor and they were the only two guests who did not hesitate to eat it.

“He was a kindred spirit who was also funny, so there was this great chemistry,” she said. “It sure was fun and delightful to be with him that night. Boys from Manhattan didn’t date girls from the Bronx. That was a given. It was too long of a trip. He took me home to the Bronx. Unheard of.”

Eleven months later, they were married in a modest ceremony (18 guests watched) that reflected their humble goals at the time. They mainly wanted to be able to pay the rent and not suffer as their parents had.

“There was a lot of unhappiness in my parents’ marriage partly because my mother was psychotic,” Mr. Alda said. “We were already ahead of the game in that neither of us were seriously mentally ill.”

Her parents had struggled financially and had no time for luxuries like dinner parties or showing affection for each other. “I wanted something different,” she said. “I wanted something without stress.”

So they filled their marriage with affection, music, dinner parties with artists and actors and celebrations of every paycheck.

“The first job I got was with a traveling children’s company where we had to lug our

own scenery,” Mr. Alda said. “I got \$10 a performance, and we were so glad, we went out to get pizza to celebrate.” To this day, whenever he gets a new acting job, they celebrate by sharing a pizza.

Early on, they lived in Cleveland, where Eve, their first child, was born. He often read poetry and short stories aloud in the evenings. “I’d be stirring a pot of soup, and the baby would be sleeping, and he’d be reading to me,” Ms. Alda said. “It was a warmth that’s hard to describe.”

They eventually had two more daughters, moved to Leonia, N.J., and discovered they had very different parenting styles. “I was the drill sergeant, and he liked to play with the kids,” she said. “These were disagreements we had to work out. How important is it for the kids to go to bed on time?”

She added, “We would talk a lot and talk angrily. When you look back, you think, ‘Why did I have to be angry?’”

From 1972 to 1983, Mr. Alda commuted from New Jersey to Los Angeles to play the part of Dr. Hawkeye Pierce in the iconic television series “M*A*S*H.” Ms. Alda suddenly found herself juggling raising their girls with trying to spend time with a husband who was increasingly busy, famous and out of town.

“I was not a good juggler,” she said. “It all took energy, and I found that I had spurts of energy. Not sustained at all.”

Not wanting to become “just an audience” for her husband, Ms. Alda worked harder on her own photography and writing projects. “I had my own drive,” she said. “One challenge of marriage is how to keep your sense of self yet be able to meld and blend with the other person.” She said that being married to a celebrity “diminishes you, unless you feel really secure in yourself.”

“I like basking in someone else’s glow,” she said, “but not as a daily diet.”

Today, they live in an Upper West Side apartment and are practically inseparable. On Facebook, she mentions Mr. Alda in almost every post, and they seem to be always headed out to a concert, play, lecture or reading. They even work on their separate writing projects together.

Mr. Alda, who has written two memoirs, writes in the living room, while Ms. Alda works in the study. They keep all the doors open so they can talk back and forth, bounce ideas off each other or call out when it’s time to break for a meal.

“Most likely one of us will die first,” she said. “I can’t even contemplate what that might be for either of us. Meanwhile, we’re doing what we should be doing. Living.”

Like many of the people profiled in “Just Kids From the Bronx,” Ms. Alda believes that success in life—and in marriage—is mostly a matter of luck. “Luck is in neon lights,” she said, adding that there is no way a couple can predict their future on their wedding day.

Both Aldas said it was especially lucky that they have never grown bored of each other and that they didn’t remain penniless forever. “I really do believe that scraping by can damage a person and can damage a relationship,” he said. “We have a lot of advantages. We know how lucky we are. I don’t think anybody can tell you how happy we’d be if we were still scraping by.”

They have a house in the Hamptons and drink really good wine, but otherwise they don’t live particularly large. Both dress in the comfortable baggy clothes of struggling writers and have remained frugal and reluctant to waste anything.

“That’s never changed,” she said. “We are definitely still those two people who would eat the cake off the floor.”

VOTE EXPLANATION

- Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, because I was helping a family member

recover from recent surgery, I was unable to attend rollcall votes Nos. 59 through 63.

Had I been present for these votes, I would have voted in favor of the cloture motion on H.R. 240; against the motion to table S. Amendment No. 258; in favor of S. Amendment No. 255; and in favor of H.R. 240, the clean Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill.

I would have also opposed the cloture motion to proceed to S. 534 because this legislation would be destructive to families and our economy.●

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a copy of my remarks at the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development.

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

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

This is the first hearing of not only our subcommittee but the entire Senate Appropriations Committee.

How's that Senator Feinstein? We're the early bird, and I want to say at the outset what a privilege it's been to work with the Senator from California over the last few years. She's been chairman, and I've been ranking member. Our seats have switched, but the relationship hasn't changed. I look forward to treating her with at least as much courtesy as she's always treated me. Let's see if I can outdo her because it's a treat to work with somebody who's capable of making a decision, expressing herself well and easy to work with. So, Senator Feinstein I look forward to our continued relationship.

This morning we're having a hearing to review the president's fiscal year 2016 budget request for the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation, which is part of the Department of Interior.

Senator Feinstein and I will each have an opening statement and then each senator may have up to five minutes for an opening statement in the order in which they arrived. Senator Graham has let me know that he has a 3 o'clock hearing, so if the senators don't mind I'll try to work him in before 3 o'clock as a courtesy to him. We'll then turn to the witnesses for their testimony. Each witness will have five minutes. We'd appreciate your summarizing your testimony in that time. We'll include their full statements in the record. And then, senators will be recognized for five minutes of questions in the order in which they arrived.

I want to thank the witnesses for being here today and thank Senator Feinstein for working with me on this. Our witnesses include Jo-Ellen Darcy, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works. Welcome Assistant Secretary Darcy. Estevan Lopez, Commissioner for the Bureau of Reclamation. Mr. Lopez, welcome. Jennifer Gimbel, the Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science. That's a long title, nice to see you. And Lieutenant General Thomas P. Bostick, Chief of Engineers for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Governing is about setting priorities, and unfortunately, the president's budget request for these agencies shows a failure to do so.

The president's overall budget proposes spending that exceeds the budget caps estab-

lished by the Budget Control Act of 2011 by about \$74 billion. And one of the priorities the president often speaks about often is our nation's infrastructure.

Yet despite all that proposed new spending and all that talk, this proposal cuts the Corps' budget by \$751 million, or about 14 percent below last year's actual spending level. This budget proposes cutting the Corps' funding to the actual level of spending in 2007—we are literally moving backward, on an agency that is crucial to maintaining our country's infrastructure.

The reason this is such a problem is that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers touches the lives of almost every American. The Corps maintains our inland waterways, it deepens and keeps our ports open, looks after many of our recreational waters and land, manages the river levels to prevent flooding, and its dams provide emission-free, renewable hydroelectric energy.

All of these activities attract the intense interest of the American people, and of their United States senators. I can recall when, I was a member of the Environmental and Public Works Committee, after the Missouri and Mississippi rivers flooded four years ago, a whole room full of senators showed up to ask for more money to deal with what went wrong and what went right with disaster relief efforts. So, there's a real interest in these proposals.

The reality is that for all the Corps does there are many things it could do better, and setting priorities in our spending is one way to better invest taxpayer dollars.

An important example of the administration's failure to set priorities in my home state of Tennessee is the lack of any funds in the president's budget request to restart replacement of Chickamauga Lock. Congress has done its job the last three years to move ahead promptly on replacing Chickamauga Lock, and it's disappointing the Obama administration has failed to do its job.

Here's what we've done. Congress, first, passed a law that reduced the amount of money that comes from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund to replace Olmsted Lock, a project in Illinois and Kentucky that was soaking up almost all of the money that is available for inland waterway projects. Second, Congress worked with the commercial waterways industry to establish a priority list for projects that needed to be funded, on which Chickamauga ranks near the top, in fourth place. And third, just this past year, working together, we enacted a user fee increase that commercial barge owners asked to pay in order to provide more money to replace locks and dams across the country, including Chickamauga Lock.

These are three extremely important steps to give our country the inland waterways that we need. These three things taken together should make it possible for the Corps of Engineers to move rapidly to begin to replace Chickamauga Lock. The problem with Chickamauga Lock is it's made of aging concrete and could fail if we don't replace it. In fact, in October of last year, the lock was closed for several days to all navigation traffic for emergency repairs after an inspection revealed cracks in the concrete.

This project's not just important to Chattanooga, but to all of Eastern Tennessee because of the number of jobs affected. We're almost out of time for a solution—the lock could close in a few years unless progress is made. If this happens it would throw 150,000 trucks on Interstate 75, it would increase the cost of shipping to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the weapons complex and to manufacturers across the state.

So you can see how Chickamauga Lock—and other projects like it across the country—ought to be a priority, and why the Corps' budget should make it a priority.

In addition to the Corps, we fund the Bureau of Reclamation.

The Bureau of Reclamation delivers water to one in five Western farmers, irrigating 10-million acres of some of the most productive agricultural land in the world.

I would note that this is the first time that Commissioner Lopez and Assistant Secretary Gimbel have appeared before this subcommittee, and we welcome them both.

Without the infrastructure that these two agencies provide, our nation would be vastly different. With that in mind, we are here today to discuss the administration's fiscal year 2016 budget request for these both agencies. I look forward to the testimony.

Before I turn to Senator Feinstein for her statement, I would like to note that this is Roger Cockrell's last hearing, at least the last one he'll attend in his capacity with us as a staff member of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He's retiring at the end of the month, and we're going to miss him. For the past 14 budget cycles, senators on the subcommittee, whether republicans or democrats, have been well-served by Roger's expertise on both the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation. It's hard to think of anyone inside or outside of Washington who matches Roger in knowledge or experience—and it is hard to think of a water resources bill that hasn't benefited from his guidance. So, Roger on behalf of the subcommittee, I wish to thank you for your service over these many years and wish your family best in your retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE VICTIMS OF THE SUMGAIT POGROMS

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I wish to recognize the victims of the mass murder of Armenians 27 years ago during the state-sponsored pogroms in Sumgait, Azerbaijan.

The citizens of Nagorno Karabakh peacefully petitioned to be reunited with Soviet Armenia and spoke out against the arbitrary borders established by Joseph Stalin and the Soviet Union. This democratic exercise of free speech expressing a natural desire for self-determination was met with 3 days of violence and brutality against Armenian civilians, who were hunted down in their homes. Security forces in Soviet Azerbaijan turned a blind eye, allowing the mass murder of Armenians in a futile attempt to defeat this movement. The massacres of Armenians did not stop in Sumgait but were followed in other Azerbaijani towns such as Kirovabad in November 1988 and the capital Baku in January 1990. The U.S. Congress strongly condemned these massacres at that time. Hundreds of thousands of Armenians fled Azerbaijan, many finding their home in my State of Michigan, where there is a monument to the victims of the Sumgait massacres.

True democracies must respect the rights of the minority, allow citizens to peacefully speak freely, and protect the human rights of all residents. The people of Nagorno Karabakh and the victims of this senseless massacre played a critical role in promoting a democracy movement which helped to end the Soviet Union.

Today, I remember the victims and ask my colleagues and the American