

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Reserving the right to object, we have entered into a momentous debate. This is a debate about whether or not a warrant with a single name of a single company can be used to collect all of the records—all of the phone records—of all of the people in our country with a single warrant.

Our forefathers would be aghast. One of the things they despised was general warrants. This is a debate that should be had. The reason I am objecting is because I have made a very simple request—to have amendments, to have them voted on, and to have a guarantee that they are voted on.

I started out the day with a request for six amendments. I am willing to compromise to have two amendments and a simple majority vote.

I think that is a very reasonable position. And if we can't have that and we can't have an extensive debate over something we have had 4 years to prepare for, I will object, and I do.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I renew my unanimous consent request with an amendment to extend expiring authorities until June 5.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. WYDEN. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I renew my unanimous consent request with an amendment to extend expiring authorities until June 3.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I will defer to the Senator from New Mexico if he wishes to make an objection.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I renew my unanimous consent request with an amendment to extend expiring authorities until June 2.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I enter my motion to reconsider.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. MCCONNELL. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, here is where we are. We are unable to clear any short-term extension, and the current law expires at midnight on Sunday. So the Senate will be back in session Sunday afternoon—a week from Sunday—on May 31, with one more opportunity to act responsibly and not allow this program to expire.

This is a high-threat period. We know what is going on overseas. We know what has been tried here at home. Do we really want this law to expire?

We have 1 week to discuss it. We will have 1 day to do it. So we better be ready next Sunday afternoon to prevent the country from being in danger by the total expiration of the program we are all familiar with.

Unless there is objection, and I understand there is not an objection, we will pass the highway extension on a voice vote tonight and we will be back in session Sunday a week.

Mr. REID. Will my friend yield for a question?

Mr. MCCONNELL. I yield for a question.

Mr. REID. We would be happy to cooperate in passing a surface transportation bill by voice, but I do say this—and I mentioned this to my colleague away from the microphones. For those of us living in the West, we cannot get back on a Sunday afternoon. I think it is very difficult for us to get back here on a weekday before 5 o'clock, so I would hope on a Sunday we wouldn't be expecting the Senate to come in session before 5 o'clock because we can't get here.

I am protecting the western part of my caucus, which is pretty big, but I am not going to agree to anything unless we can come in at least after 5 o'clock.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Well, as my friend the Democratic leader knows, I would be happy to work with him on that. He also knows I just tried to get a short-term extension of a variety of different lengths in order not to put us in this position, but we are left with this option only.

We will work with the Democratic leader about the actual time, but the law expires at midnight Sunday a week. I doubt if there are many of us comfortable with that—maybe a handful—but we need to act responsibly here on behalf of the American people.

Mr. REID. I agree.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I am not sure I made it clear to everyone that there will be no more votes tonight. We will see you in a week.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, 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.

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

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

NATIONAL SECURITY LEGISLATION

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I wanted to speak earlier because I wanted to encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come to a resolution on this problem. We cannot let this country go dark in terms of its ability to do its duty to defend the United States of America. We have to get off of what we are doing here and start getting down to the business of what we need to do.

I have to believe that tonight the world is watching us and they are saying: There goes the United States Senate, and there they go home, ha, ha, ha. They have a program that someone tried to render helpless in terms of our ability to protect ourselves. Edward Snowden literally tried to disgrace the United States.

Now here we are working on a program that went through the respective committees, that has the sound and sensible solution, and we have rejected it.

I am not here to talk about the program, but I will tell you whom I am ready to talk about—the thousands and thousands and thousands of people who work at the National Security Agency, and I want to talk about what they go through every day. They are out there working a 36-hour day trying to defend the United States of America, and they want to work under a law that is constitutional, is legal, is authorized, so they can do the necessary work to defend the United States of America. They thought they were doing that under the old FISA bill. They thought they were doing that. They were proud of what they were doing. They mustered everything they could give to this country. Then along comes Eric Snowden. Then along come the leaks. Then along comes the pontificating about “My, my, my, we have to worry about privacy.”

I worry about privacy, too, but I also worry about the safety and security of

the United States of America. And I watched the Nation vilify the men and women who work at this Agency.

So now, as we work under the current law—which will expire; make no mistake, it will expire—we don't have it together to pass a new law. So they have been vilified for what they have done. They have been vilified for what they have done, in many instances attacked by their neighbors, their children picked on and bullied because their parents work at this Agency. Morale was at a low ebb. Finally, now we are trying to deal with and cope with that. They are proud of their work. And what are we doing? We can't even pass a law. We can't even pass a law. I think that is absolutely outrageous.

I am so sorry we are going home. I am so sorry we are going home. So now we will come back next Sunday. I really urge those people—who I know are of good will and well-intentioned—to really work to find a way that when we come back next Sunday, we will be able to vote and move forward and not end up in this ongoing parliamentary quagmire.

I worry about our country, and I worry about our ability to govern. This is as serious as it gets. What is the role of a National Security Agency? To be able to operate and function in a way that is constitutional, legal, authorized, and obviously of necessity.

So I really feel very strongly about this. And I have watched all this go back and forth. So we spent hours and days and days and days on all of these amendments on trade. That is good. I am glad we did it. But I am not glad we took that long. We had this bill. We knew we had this bill. We waited until the last minute. We got ourselves into a jackpot. Now we really have to find our way out.

I just cannot speak more forcibly and enough about this. Well, I will have more to say next week. But I really urge others to do their very best. I know there are people here, such as my colleague Senator FEINSTEIN and others, who have worked on this.

I yield the floor.

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

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

HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION FUNDING ACT OF 2015

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 89, H.R. 2353.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2353) to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor

carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, is there going to be a unanimous consent request made at this point?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair understands there will be.

Mr. DURBIN. I will reserve the right to object at that point.

Mr. President, in the interest of time—I know it is early in the morning—I would like to make a statement. I am not going to object to proceeding to this measure, but I would like to make a matter of record what I am sure the Senator from South Dakota already knows: that absent our action at this moment, the Federal highway program authority will expire May 31.

We have just spent the better part of the evening contemplating the expiration of important law relative to our national security, and we have not resolved it.

What is happening here, of course, is a request for a 60-day extension of the Federal highway program. I might say—and I am sure the Senator from South Dakota is well aware of this—this is the 33rd short-term extension of our Federal highway program.

I think all of us understand that the program that once was considered to be the centerpiece of America's infrastructure and its economy has now deteriorated to the point where we are extending it for 1 month, 2 months, and 3 months at a time. Frankly, it does not serve our country and it doesn't serve our economy. It is a reflection on the lack of leadership by those who have the authority in committees and in the House and Senate to propose a measure that becomes a long-term highway program.

I just want to make it clear that instead of enacting a 6-year transportation program worthy of our great Nation, this Congress continues to limp along down a political highway of excuses. It is coming to an end.

There have been lengthy discussions in our Democratic caucus that these continued short-term extensions are unacceptable in this great Nation. And I would just say that although we will agree to this 60-day extension, we are serving notice on the majority leader in the Senate as well as the Speaker to do their job and to enact a law that provides the kind of infrastructure that could build America's economy.

So I will not object to this request, but notice is given that in this 60 days, it is time for this Congress to act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on the third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 2353) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be made and laid upon the table.

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

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

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. KING, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE)

1469. A bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF PETER LEVINE TO BE DEPUTY CHIEF MANAGEMENT OFFICER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

NOMINATION OF PAUL A. FOLMSBEE, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MALI

NOMINATION OF STAFFORD FITZGERALD HANEY TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 83, 126, and 128, and that the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that following disposition of the nominations, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.