

NATIONAL DEFENSE  
AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I rise to give my overall support for the content of the Defense authorization bill, but my considerable concern and, therefore, my “no” vote on final passage in the Committee on Armed Services was because the bill, as crafted by the majority in the committee, is a travesty, using an artificial budget to authorize the necessary operations and troop readiness of our military establishment.

Now, that is what the bill does. It is an artificial budget. That may not sound particularly offensive, particularly when as a policy bill there are many good things in this Defense bill; things such as providing for the increase of our military services; things such as certain weapons systems that are authorized.

Historically, this bill has been recognized as being bipartisan, and it addresses the problems posed by an increasingly dangerous world. The Defense authorization bill has historically provided the military with the resources our Nation needs. But the ranking Democrat, the Senator from Rhode Island, and I are compelled to oppose this bill because it addresses these problems with an artificial budget that treats an essential part of our military, which is preparedness—the necessary operations training and maintenance, preparedness of our military—in an unplanned way. They are treating it as an expense by sending it over to an account that is not even on the budget—an account called overseas contingency operations or the funds for what used to be the Iraq war and is now the winding down of the Afghanistan war. This is an unbudgeted item—operations readiness, training—necessary for our military to be ready, and they are taking it out of the Defense Department budget and sticking it over here. Now, that doesn’t make sense.

Some might say: Well, why in the world would they do that? Because folks around here are concerned about something called the sequester, which is supposedly an artificial limit on keeping expenditures of the Federal Government below a certain level. That may sound like a good thing, if it is done with legitimate numbers, but when in fact you are creating that artificial limit pressing down on Federal spending, but you take a major part of that Federal spending out and put it over here in an unaccounted-for account that doesn’t reach those budgetary caps, that is nothing more than—I will put it politely—budgetary sleight of hand. I will put it more directly: That is budgetary fakery. Therefore, this Senator is going to oppose the bill.

The Senate Committee on Armed Services has received testimony from military leader after military leader—chief master sergeants, generals, admirals—who have said the policy of this arbitrary budget cap called sequestration is harming our national security

and is putting our military strategy at risk.

Our strategy is not just dependent on defense spending, but it is very dependent upon nondefense spending, which in this bill is not even being addressed because that artificial ceiling—the sequestration—is like a meat ax right across the Federal budget. That is affecting—and every one of those military leaders will tell you—that is affecting our military preparedness.

These arbitrary budget caps impact this nondefense spending. It keeps us from providing funds for other agencies that are so essential to the national security. The Coast Guard, they are out there in the war zone. They are in another war zone down in the Caribbean as they are interdicting all kinds of drug smugglers. What about the FBI, the CIA, the DEA, Customs, Border Patrol, Air Traffic Control, TSA? All of those are affected and affect national security.

So if we are going to continue to budget like this, the result is going to be more budget uncertainty for our military, and it is going to end up bleeding funds away from our military readiness.

What we are doing is we are avoiding the obvious. The obvious is working around to bring those numbers down under those artificial budget caps. So it is time for us to get rid of the sequester. We did it before, 2 years ago, with a bipartisan budget—the one known as Murray-Ryan. We need to do it again. Otherwise, right now, we are wasting our time working on bills that have no chance of becoming law. We need to fix the budget caps for defense and nondefense spending. You do not use a bandaid when you have an artery that is gushing blood.

Now, it is not just this. There are other examples. Take, for example, a program that I have some familiarity with—our Nation’s space program. We have been trying since 2010, since Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, a Republican from Texas, and I passed a NASA authorization bill that put us on the course that will ultimately, as the President has now announced, take us to Mars. But we can’t get the policy updated because we can’t pass another NASA authorization bill. So what happens? It goes to the Committee on Appropriations. Thank goodness we have folks such as Senator SHELBY and Senator MIKULSKI who direct that.

But now what is happening to appropriations bills? They are being put under this sequester, and, because of that, it is going to be hard in this Chamber to get 60 votes to pass appropriations bills. As a result, we are going to be in near cardiac arrest right at the end of the time, during a continuing resolution, which is no way to run a railroad when you appropriate money. We have to come to the altar and realize what we are facing, and that is this artificial budgetary cap.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

## ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following speakers in morning business be limited to speak for up to 5 minutes each: Myself, Senators GILLIBRAND, MANCHIN, and MARKEY.

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

## AMENDMENT NO. 1521

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise today to support amendment No. 1521, which would limit the use of overseas contingency operations, or OCO, funds. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this amendment, which was filed by the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator JACK REED.

I wish to start by thanking Senator McCAIN and Senator REED for their leadership in producing the underlining bill. Drafting the National Defense Authorization Act, NDAA, is no small task, and I support many important provisions included in the bill. As Ranking Member of the Seapower Subcommittee, I worked with Chairman WICKER to include provisions that will strengthen and support our Navy and Marine Corps.

Every Defense bill presents challenges and tradeoffs. There are competing priorities and compromises. For 52 consecutive years, both Chambers have debated the details and come up with a product that supports and enhances our national security. However, this year’s bill presents more than just a difference over details. The overall framework of this bill is a problem. Before us is a bill that presents a serious question about our national values—a question that the Reed amendment would help to answer.

Earlier this year, the Republicans pushed through a budget resolution. That resolution clearly set forth the framework that Chairman McCAIN had to work within. That framework basically said: We are not going to address sequestration in a meaningful way. Instead, we are only going to provide sequester relief for the defense budget. I note that this budget resolution passed the Senate without a single Democratic vote. I ask my colleagues to join me in objecting to an approach that bifurcates sequester relief as though our country’s national security lies only with the Department of Defense, because that is what this NDAA bill does. How? The bill before us takes \$38 billion out of the base budget at the Department of Defense and moves it into the OCO budget. The OCO budget is not subject to Budget Control Act caps. The reason for this is that OCO funds are intended to support the unknown unknowns that arise during our security operations abroad. Using the OCO account to fund noncontingency items is irresponsible. It is a 1-year fix, and it adds to our budget deficit. It is not fair to our commanders on the ground, who

have told us that we need to fix sequester permanently so they can prepare for the long term. Using the OCO account to shield the DOD from sequester has been called a gimmick by many.

I am for a strong national defense. However, the foundation of our military strength is the strength of our economy. It is the strength of our communities. It is the strength of our future. Failing to fix sequestration for both defense and nondefense will undermine the strength of our national defense. Again, our national security is not just tied to our military strength. There are other national security initiatives that are not funded by the Department of Defense. For example, we have the State Department, the FBI, Homeland Security, the Coast Guard, and other law enforcement agencies and programs that are all important components of our national security. None of these programs is funded by the Department of Defense.

In addition, the Department of Defense has said that fewer than one in four Americans in the eligible age range are qualified to enlist in the Armed Services. This is due to a variety of reasons, including health, obesity, fitness, mental aptitude, et cetera. Cutting funding to nutrition programs, education initiatives, preventative health measures, and fitness programs will result in even fewer individuals qualifying for our Armed Services. By not fixing both the military and domestic sides of the budget, we are undermining the foundation of our security and our future.

America is one country, and the decisions we make in Congress should reflect that reality. We need to eliminate the sequester because these across-the-board cuts hurt our middle-class families, our small businesses, our military, and our national security. We need to eliminate the sequester—period. To continue to be bound by mindless, across-the-board cuts to both our defense and domestic budgets—cuts that were never supposed to become reality—is pure folly. Congress should come together in a spirit of bipartisan cooperation to fix sequester.

This proposal by Senator REED just fences the \$38 billion in OCO funds until Congress comes together to do just that. It doesn't take the funding out of the budget. But it does prevent spending it before relief from Budget Control Act cuts are achieved on both the defense and domestic sides.

I urge my colleagues to support the Reed amendment to provide for a responsible defense budget.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, are we in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. We are.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I have always said that being a superpower means more than super military might. It means super diplomacy. It would

contain restraint and super fiscal responsibility. All of these are part of being a superpower.

Admiral Mullen, the former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, once said that the greatest threat to our national security is our debt—not another nation, not another army, not the fear of terrorism, but basically our debt.

The United States has and will continue to have the greatest military in the world. But in order to remain the most powerful, we have to get our financial house in order. I think we all agree to that, but we don't seem to be practicing it very much.

I fully support Senator REED's amendment to basically fence the OCO funding.

If we look to see how we have gotten ourselves into the situation we have now, it is not Democrat or Republican. It is our fault, and it is our responsibility to fix it. Basically, we have had two wars in Afghanistan and Iraq that we didn't fund. We did it through accounting procedures, emergency procedures, and contingency funds. Now we continue to expand upon that, if we go down this route without fixing it with Senator REED's amendment.

Ensuring the safety of the American people does not mean increasing defense spending to fund never-ending wars in the Middle East while ignoring nondefense programs that are also crucial to our national security. I have said this over and over. If we thought money and military might could fix that part of the world, the United States of America would have done it by now.

For years, critical nondefense programs, such as the Department of Homeland Security and the State Department, have been forced to absorb damaging across-the-board cuts. They are also extremely important in safeguarding the homeland.

While we continue to keep in place the budget cuts for these agencies, we have underhandedly gone around spending limits and improperly increased war funding. The most recent gimmick we are talking about, which has been explained, is an attempt to transfer roughly \$39 billion from the base budget to the OCO budget to increase funding for overseas conflict. I have said time and again that after a decade of war in the Middle East, costing more than \$1.6 trillion, does anyone believe we haven't done our part and tried? If money and might could have changed it, we would have done it by now.

What is more important is that we are denying the funding from other important programs that desperately need these funds to keep our country stable, safe, and secure. In order to be truly secure, we need our non-Department of Defense departments and agencies to be able to function at full capacity also. The Pentagon simply cannot meet the complex set of national security challenges without the help of

other government departments and agencies. We are all in this together. We are all responsible to protect this country. But we are all responsible to make sure that we can properly ensure that people have the opportunity to take care of themselves also.

Retired Marine Corps General Mattis said: "If you don't fund the State Department fully, then I need to buy more ammunition." He might have said that in jest, but I think underlying it he really meant it. And last week showed how vulnerable our networks are to cyber attacks from foreign nations and those who wish us harm.

We have had a cyber bill before us for many years now. We have been told on an almost weekly or monthly basis of the threat we face from all different countries trying to hack in to do us harm. Yet we haven't been able to move because of the toxic political atmosphere we have here.

Our national security is also inherently tied to our economic security. Failures to invest in programs such as STEM education and infrastructure projects are short sighted. Failing to provide BCA cap relief to non-DOD departments and agencies would also shortchange our veterans who receive employment services, transition assistance, and housing/homeless support through other agencies such as the Department of Labor. The bottom line is that we need to get our long-term budget that reduces the deficit in line. Increasing the OCO money, as the bill does right now, only hurts that goal and makes it much more difficult and elusive.

Defense budgeting needs to be based on our long-term military strategy, which requires the Department of Defense to focus at least 5 years into the future. This is only a 1-year plan. Do we think it is not going to be extended and extended and extended? Do we think we are going to start it and stop it in 1 year? I don't think so.

The fiscally responsible approach we need to take is to fix the BCA caps. We are hearing about the whole issue of sequestration and how horrible it is. Well, let me tell you how you can fix it: Sit down and put together a budget that is realistic and makes our long-term financial plans solid. That is all it takes. Yet we are unwilling to do it. We are just condemning it. We are condemning it because it constrains how we want to do business, which means not being held accountable or responsible. That is all.

Every meeting I go to, whether it is nondiscretion or military spending—we all need more to expand programs. Yet we never take the GAO's report. The General Accountability Office says we could save \$300 billion to \$400 billion a year if we could just get rid of the waste and the redundancies that go on, and we are not doing anything about that.

I say again that our national debt is not a Democratic problem or a Republican problem. It is our problem. We all own this one.

In 2008, our country faced one of the worst financial crises in our Nation's history. We added \$1 trillion to our debt—on top of the trillions of dollars already spent on two costly wars and the Bush tax cuts, which President Obama basically extended twice.

Between the wars, the tax cuts, the recession, and our out-of-control spending, our Nation's debt has exploded from \$5 trillion to \$18 trillion. Currently, our deficits are decreasing, from \$1.4 trillion in 2009 down to a little under one-half billion dollars, according to the CBO, and it is expected to remain stable for the next couple of years.

The bad news is that after 2017, if we don't change our ways, the deficits are projected to increase over \$1 trillion a year through 2025. Unless Congress can put aside partisan politics and put the country on a fiscally sustainable path, we will add over \$7.5 trillion to our debt in the next 10 years. That is adding \$7.5 trillion to \$18 trillion of debt we have right now. There is no way the next generation and the generation after will ever be able to dig out of this hole if we don't fix it now. But we have to be smart about how we reduce spending.

As we saw in the 2013 sequestration, indiscriminate, across-the-board cuts harmed bad and good programs alike, did nothing to reduce waste and abuse, and caused individuals to be furloughed and lose their jobs.

I have always said this: When you start cutting, you don't cut, basically, the items that continue to make progress for you. When the IRS doesn't do its job and it is incapable of doing it—the revenues owed to this country and the taxes that people should be paying—we can't cut back on that and expect it to be solid.

I have pushed hard for a bipartisan compromise that would reduce spending, fix our broken tax system, and reform entitlement programs in order to reduce our debt and provide the economy with certainty and stability.

For instance, we could enact \$2.5 trillion in deficit reduction over the next 10 years if we just follow the Simpson-Bowles recommendations. It is an all-encompassing approach that raises revenue and promotes growth through comprehensive tax reform that brings our Tax Code into the modern age—increasing efficiency and simplifying the process for both individuals and businesses.

Additionally, the plan enacts serious entitlement reform and makes additional targeted spending cuts aimed at long-term deficit reduction so that we can encourage economic growth. It is crucial that we make the necessary reforms that will make this Nation a better place for future generations.

With that being said, I again express my support for Senator REED's amend-

ment to the defense budget that would block any additional unnecessary, unaudited spending for a continual war effort where we have no oversight. We were elected to basically look at the process we have.

I ask unanimous consent for an extra 2 minutes, if I could, to finish.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

**MR. MANCHIN.** With that being said, Mr. President, all I am saying is that we should be smart and learn from our past and the experiences we have had. It has not worked well for us right now, and we can change it. We are the only ones who can change it.

This country has a strong economy. It could be even stronger if we work together. The bottom line is we want to be smart. We want to be smart about where we invest our money and where we send our troops and put Americans in harm's way. We want to be smart in the domestic investments we make here in this country. We want to make sure they are working. If they are not working, then, you know what, do not be afraid to say: I tried and it did not work. I am going to try something different.

Basically, if you have two programs doing the same thing, consolidate. Let's start looking for ways that we can run this country the way each American is expected to run their life. Every small business or large business is expected to make prudent investments and work efficiently. That is all we have asked for. This type of spending, basically unaccountable, will lead us down the path to increase the debt and does not make us any more secure and gets us involved in places where we do not have any oversight or any input.

I do not—I do not—as a U.S. Senator wish to walk away from my responsibilities to make recommendations for what I think would be best for not only the West Virginia people, whom I represent, but for this entire country, which I love.

I yield the floor.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Senator from Massachusetts.

**MR. MARKEY.** Mr. President, I voted against the Budget Control Act as a Member of the House of Representatives because I did not think it was a responsible course for our country. To me, "sequestration" is just a fancy term for mindless budget cuts. Unfortunately, sequestration became law and the mandated across-the-board spending cuts went into effect in March of 2013.

I have been fighting to completely eliminate sequestration through a balanced approach to Federal spending and changes to our Tax Code to reduce our budget deficit. That is why I am very disappointed that the Defense authorization bill we are considering today uses a budget gimmick to end sequestration cuts for defense spending but continues to impose mandatory cuts for critical domestic priorities,

such as education, health care, and medical research.

This legislation transfers nearly \$40 billion in defense spending to a glorified slush fund called the overseas contingency operations account, OCO account, as a way to avoid triggering sequestration cuts. Let's be clear. OCO really stands for "open checkbook operation" for our budget, and it stands for "outrageous copout" by the GOP.

Instead of cutting funding for defense, Republicans choose instead to cut programs for the defenseless. This is not responsible budgeting; it is a cynical game. The majority is attempting to avoid its responsibilities under sequestration that they themselves demanded be enacted into law just a few years ago. Instead, we get \$40 billion in additional spending for the Pentagon and \$36 billion in cuts to food stamps, Head Start, preventive health care, and critical social programs.

This is what the game is all about. Sequestration is now being dishonored. They believe they have found an exit ramp for the Defense Department for the cuts that they had accepted as a party—the Republicans—would be imposed if the Democrats would accept in equal measure cuts in social programs. That is the deal, a sword of Damocles hanging over both programs, defense and nondefense—that is civilian and domestic programs—to force us as an institution to work together in a responsible fashion. That was the deal with sequestration. That was the point of it. It was to force us to work together. Instead, the Republicans want an exit ramp for the Defense Department out of the sequestration program while allowing the social programs for the poor, for the sick, and for the elderly to stay inside of these cuts that occur under a sword of Damocles on an automatic basis.

We are endangering our ability to teach our kids the skills they will need for the jobs of the future. We are making it harder for poor families in Massachusetts and across the country to put food on the table. We are jeopardizing the health of grandma and grandpa.

And what are we really protecting when we mandate these cuts for critical social programs but not for our defense spending? We are protecting America's nuclear arsenal budget of \$50 billion a year that is filled with waste and can be cut significantly without harming our national security. We spend more money on nuclear weapons than all other countries combined. This is the epitome of overkill. Can we find anything in the nuclear weapons budget that could be cut? Absolutely not, say the Republicans. We have to increase that budget. How are we going to pay for it? We are going to pay for it from poor children, from the elderly in our country.

We spend more money on nuclear weapons just because the Defense Department and the military contractors want them. That is why I have introduced legislation with JEFF MERKLEY,

BERNIE SANDERS, and AL FRANKEN called the SANE Act, the Smarter Approach to Nuclear Expenditures Act. It would cut \$100 billion over the next 10 years from our bloated nuclear weapons budget.

It is time to stop funding a nuclear weapons budget that threatens to undermine our long-term economic security. We should be funding education, not annihilation. We should be helping people find jobs, not helping to build new nuclear weapons. We should be curing diseases, not creating new instruments of death.

Even within our own budget, the Department of Defense should be prioritizing higher pay for marines, not more Minutemen missiles. Somewhere, Dr. Strangelove is smiling from the grave while millions of American families struggle to meet the daily budget they have to balance.

I am a cosponsor of the Reed amendment to stop any increase in this so-called OCO account until the Budget Control Act caps for both defense and nondefense spending are lifted equally.

For those who say the cuts to defense spending endanger our security, I say we face a very real type of economic security threat here at home. Millions of seniors worry about an end to Medicare and Medicaid. Millions of students need help to pay for college. Millions of American workers cannot make ends meet on the minimum wage.

I support the Reed amendment. That will keep America truly safe, healthy, and secure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. MARKEY. I yield the floor.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1735, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1735) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2016 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McCain amendment No. 1463, in the nature of a substitute.

McCain amendment No. 1456 (to amendment No. 1463), to require additional information supporting long-range plans for construction of naval vessels.

Reed amendment No. 1521 (to amendment No. 1463), to limit the availability of amounts authorized to be appropriated for overseas contingency operations pending relief from the spending limits under the Budget Control Act of 2011.

Cornyn amendment No. 1486 (to amendment No. 1463), to require reporting on energy security issues involving Europe and the Russian Federation, and to express the sense of Congress regarding ways the United States could help vulnerable allies and partners with energy security.

Vitter amendment No. 1473 (to amendment No. 1463), to limit the retirement of Army combat units.

Markey amendment No. 1645 (to amendment No. 1463), to express the sense of Congress that exports of crude oil to United States allies and partners should not be determined to be consistent with the national interest if those exports would increase energy prices in the United States for American consumers or businesses or increase the reliance of the United States on imported oil.

Reed (for Blumenthal) amendment No. 1564 (to amendment No. 1463), to increase civil penalties for violations of the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act.

McCain (for Paul) Modified amendment No. 1543 (to amendment No. 1463), to strengthen employee cost savings suggestions programs within the Federal Government.

Reed (for Durbin) modified amendment No. 1559 (to amendment No. 1463), to prohibit the award of Department of Defense contracts to inverted domestic corporations.

McCain (for Burr) amendment No. 1569 (to amendment No. 1463), to ensure criminal background checks of employees of the military child care system and providers of child care services and youth program services for military dependents.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 3 p.m. will be equally divided between the managers and their designees.

The Senator from Arizona.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1521

Mr. McCAYIN. Mr. President, as we consider the amendment by the Senator from Rhode Island, I would like to again remind my colleagues that the world is in turmoil. The world has never seen greater crises since the end of World War II, according to people as well respected as Dr. Kissinger.

I repeat my assertion that OCO was not the right or best way to do business. The worst way to do business is to have an authorization that will eliminate our ability to defend this Nation and the men and women who serve it.

I urge my colleagues to read in this weekend's New York Times "The Global Struggle to Respond to the Worst Refugee Crisis in Generations."

Eleven million people were uprooted by violence last year, most propelled by conflict in Syria, Iraq, Ukraine and Afghanistan. Conflict and extreme poverty have also pushed tens of thousands out of parts of sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia. . . . the worst migration crisis since World War II, according to the United Nations.

That is what is going on in the world, and we are worried about how we are going to defend the Nation with priorities that are dramatically strewed and unfair.

"Islamic State attacks government office on western fringe of Baghdad." That was yesterday.

Three militants disguised in military uniform killed at least eight people in a local government office in Amriyat al-Falluja in

western Iraq on Tuesday, in an attack claimed by Islamic State.

"The U.S. Army's main Web site is down—and the Syrian Electronic Army is claiming credit."

The Syrian Electronic Army hacked the official Web site for the U.S. Army, a Twitter account apparently associated with the hacktivist group claimed Monday. The site was down in the afternoon, while screenshots posted on the social network by the group purported to show messages of support for beleaguered Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on the site earlier in the day.

That was from the Washington Post, June 8 at 4:53 p.m.

The World: "Islamic State seizes power plant near Libyan city of Sirte."

Islamic State militants have seized a power plant west of the Libyan city of Sirte which supplies central and western parts of the country with electricity, the group and a military source said on Tuesday.

"The plant . . . was taken" Islamic State said in a message on social media, adding that the capture of the plant meant that the militants had driven their enemies out of the entire city.

Libya descending into chaos and ISIS extending its influence.

The Washington Post, June 6: "Libya gains may offer ISIS a base for new attacks."

Misurata, Libya—As the Islamic State scores new victories in Syria and Iraq, its affiliate in Libya is also on the offensive, consolidating control of Moammar Gaddafi's former home town and staging a bomb attack on a major city, Misurata.

The Islamic State's growth could further destabilize a country already suffering from a devastating civil war. And Libya could offer the extremists a new base from which to launch attacks elsewhere in North America.

That was from the Washington Post.

FOX News, June 9: "ISIS captures 88 Eritrean Christians in Libya, US official confirms."

The ISIS terror group kidnapped 88 Eritrean Christians from a people-smugglers' caravan in Libya last week, a U.S. defense official confirmed Monday.

The Washington Post: "What is at stake in Ukraine if Russia continues its onslaught."

Ukraine is fighting a war on two fronts. The one you see on television is taking place in the east of our country, where thousands of Russian troops are engaged in an armed aggression against Ukraine's territorial integrity, including the illegal annexation of Crimea.

This is a piece that is important, by the Prime Minister of Ukraine, Arseniy Yatsenyuk.

The Wall Street Journal: "President Obama admits his anti-ISIS strategy isn't 'complete.'"

President Obama doesn't give many press conferences at home, so sometimes his most revealing media moments come when he's button-holed abroad. Witness his answer Monday in Austria to a question about Iraq.

Mr. Obama offered a startling explanation for why the war against Islamic State isn't going so well: His strategy still isn't up and running.

"We don't yet have a complete strategy because it requires commitments on the part of the Iraqis, as well, about how recruitment takes place, how that training takes place. And so