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Senate

The Senate met at 4 p.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.

Eternal Lord God, You have told us in 1 Thessalonians 5:18 that it is Your will for us to be thankful in every circumstance. So today we thank You for the orderly transition of governmental power and for the substantive contributions to liberty of President Barack Obama. We are grateful for his labors of faith, patience, and hope. We are thankful for his dependence on You.

Lord, we also express gratitude for the limitless possibilities available to President-Elect Donald Trump. May he receive inspiration from Your declaration in Psalm 75:6 and 7 that elevation comes neither from the east, west, south or north, but You are the sovereign judge who puts down one and lifts up another.

Lord, we give You our thanksgiving for our lawmakers, old and new. Bless and keep them in all they think, say, and do.

Finally, we thank You for the life and legacy of Gwen Ifill.

We pray in Your merciful 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 PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3464 AND H.R. 6094

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bills by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3464) to provide incremental increases to the salary threshold for exemptions for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 6094) to provide for a 6-month delay in the effective date of a rule of the Department of Labor relating to income thresholds for determining overtime pay for executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, and computer employees.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand appointments were made during the adjournment of the Senate, and I ask they be stated for the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Democratic leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 114-198, the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the Creating Options for Veterans' Expedited Recovery (COVER Commission): Dr. Wayne Jonas of Virginia (Veteran) and Jon Soltz of Virginia (Veteran).

The Chair, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to Public Law 112-272, appoints the following individual to be a member of the World War I Centennial Commission: Terry Hamby of Kentucky.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the majority leader and the Democratic leader, pursuant to Public Law 110-298, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the Federal Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Board: Rick McCubbin of Kentucky.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the majority leader and the Democratic leader, pursuant to Public Law 110-298, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the State and Local Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Board: Michael Walters of Nevada.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the majority leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 114-215, the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the John F. Kennedy Centennial Commission: the Honorable JOHN MCCAIN and the Honorable ORRIN G. HATCH.

The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore and upon the recommendation of the Democratic leader, pursuant to Public Law 98-183, as amended by Public Law 103-419, reappoints the following individual to the United States Commission on Civil Rights: David Kladney of Nevada.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the Democratic leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 106-398, as amended by Public Law 108-7, and in consultation with the chairmen of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the reappointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission: Katherine Tobin of Virginia.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the Democratic leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 114-196, the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the United States Semiquincentennial Commission: Members of the Senate: the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr. of Pennsylvania and the Honorable JEANNE

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



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S6317

SHAHEEN of New Hampshire. Private Citizens: Dr. Andrew Hohns of Pennsylvania, David Cohen of Pennsylvania, Heather Murren of Nevada, and James Swanson of the District of Columbia.

THE ELECTION AND WORKING TOGETHER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we have had a regularly scheduled election in this country every 2 years since 1788. This year's campaign was long and it was tough, and I think everyone is glad it is over. I think Americans are ready to come together and move the country forward.

As President Obama reminded us, we are all on one team. This is an intramural scrimmage. We are not Democrats first. We are not Republicans first. We are Americans first. We are patriots first. Now, as he put it, we are all rooting for the success of the President-elect for uniting and leading the country.

I want to congratulate President-Elect Trump on his victory. I want to thank the American people for placing their trust in this Senate majority and the House majority as well. Speaker RYAN and I had productive discussions with the President-elect last week. We are both looking forward to working with him, but first there is work to be done in the current session of the Senate.

We will welcome some new Members, beginning with orientation this week. We will bid farewell to some dear colleagues. We will finish the work that remains before us.

So welcome back, everyone. We still have some work to do, and with some cooperation from both sides, we will get it done.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

THANKING THE SENATE CHAPLAIN AND WELCOMING EVERYONE BACK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I very much appreciate the prayer of Admiral Black. He always does his best to set the tone. I appreciate the tone that he has set this afternoon. I appreciate him and what he does very much.

I welcome everyone back. We have been gone quite some time. We have a lot of work to do the next few weeks, and we will do our best to get it done as quickly as we can.

REMEMBERING GWEN IFILL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would like to say just a few words about Gwen Ifill. It really was too bad that she died at age 61. She was a woman who broke barriers. Every step of her life was something new and inspirational for those around her.

I watch the "NewsHour" as often as I can, and I will miss her. I thought she had such a fine way of presenting herself in the news that she reported. Every night she would do the nightly review. She was really a good person, and I will miss her. I think we all will.

THE ELECTION OF DONALD TRUMP

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have been in politics for five decades. I have not seen anything like what we are seeing today in America. The man who lost the popular vote by 2 million votes is now the President-elect. I will repeat that. A man who lost the election by 2 million votes or more is now the President-elect.

His election has sparked a wave of hate crimes across America. This is a simple statement of fact, but it raises critical questions for us as a country and as a nation. How do we respond to the election of Donald Trump?

The Democrats want to work with Mr. Trump when we can. I understand and respect the impulse because Democrats like to get things done. That is why most of us are in government in the first place.

For example, Democrats have been trying for multiple decades to get Republicans to invest in our deteriorating infrastructure. What kind of makeup do we have in the infrastructure? Some say \$1 trillion; some say \$3 trillion. It is really badly in need of help and repair. It is an automatic job creator. Over these decades, each time we tried to do something on infrastructure, Republicans obstructed. So if we can finally get Republicans to make the job-creating infrastructure investments we have been seeking for years, that would be a welcome development for the Senate and the country.

If Trump wants to pursue policies that will help working people, Democrats will take a pragmatic approach. Democrats have a responsibility to improve the lives of Americans, but we also have other responsibilities. We have a responsibility to be the voice of millions of Americans sitting at home, afraid that they are not welcome anymore in Donald Trump's America. We have a responsibility to prevent Trump's bullying, aggressive behavior from becoming normalized in the eyes of Americans, especially to the many young people who are watching and wondering, for example, if sexual assault is now a laughing matter.

We have a responsibility to say that it is not normal for the KKK and groups like the Klan to celebrate the election of a President they view as their champion with a victory parade. They have one scheduled. In other words, we have a responsibility to lead.

Outside this Senate Chamber, workers can be heard hammering away on the platform for the inauguration ceremony. It will take months to do it, but it will be done right. In 65 days Donald Trump will step onto that platform. For 4 years he will wield the loudest

and most powerful microphone in the world. But even as those workers hammer away on Trump's platform, and even as we as leaders accept the results of this election, we must also give voice to those who are afraid because there are many who are afraid.

Indeed, a majority of Americans opposed Donald Trump. Many of my Republican colleagues in this Chamber opposed Trump. They were not alone. Trump will be the first President to take office having lost the popular vote by 2 million.

Every day for the past week, the majority of American voters have awakened to a difficult reality: Not only did the man who lost the popular vote win the election, but his election sparked a rise in hate crimes and threats of violence. Since Election Day, the Southern Poverty Law Center has reported hundreds of incidents of harassment and intimidation. The last count reported is 315 from their calculations.

Overwhelmingly, the hateful acts are anti-Muslim, anti-Hispanic, anti-African American, anti-woman, anti-LGBT, anti-Semitic, and anti-Asian.

I have heard these stories from friends and family. My and my wife's Nevada physician is a Pakistani-American of Muslim faith. We think so much of him. We have known each other for 35 years. The day after the election my friend was in a restaurant in Las Vegas having dinner. A man approached him in a threatening manner and said: Where are you from? He said: Where are you from? The man said: I'm local. The doctor said: So am I.

That same night, in another restaurant in Las Vegas, another friend of mine who is also a Pakistani-American physician was having dinner. A man walked up to him in the same manner and said: Where are you from? He said he was from Pakistan. The other man said: Why don't you go back?

One of my staffers has a daughter in middle school. I have known that little girl since she was a little baby. The day after the election, the principal addressed the entire student body on the school's PA system because of two incidents that had occurred that he wanted to talk about. In one instance, a boy yelled at a Latina student, saying he was glad she was being deported now that Trump was President.

Another boy was sent home for yelling a derogatory, hateful term to an African-American student. The boy justified himself by saying he could use that language now that Trump was President.

In Spokane, WA, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center was defaced with the same hateful word.

Those are only a few examples that people close to me have related. But these disturbing accounts have been heard across America.

I have a compilation of many of these incidents. One is from NBC news. Another is from another publication. There is a headline: "Hundreds of Hate Crimes Reported Since the Election."