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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Revive us, O Lord, for Your Name's sake. Fill our Senators with Your Spirit and lead them to Your desired destination. Keep them so dedicated to Your purposes that they will do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly. Equip them to bear the responsibility they cannot assign to others but must carry in the strength You provide. Give them the wisdom to be quick to listen and slow to speak as You incline their hearts to live with integrity.

Lord, may faith replace fear, truth arise over falsehood, love prevail over hate, and peace abide with us all.

We pray in Your strong 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute as in morning business.

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

MULTIEMPLOYER PENSIONS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, Congress needs to address the crisis facing multiemployer pension plans. The Fi-

nance Committee is continuing its work on retirement income security, including those issues with the multi-employer plans.

While we work to enact the first round of reforms in the retirement savings accounts, known as RESA, which is now before the Senate, there is still more work to do. We have the benefit of the joint select committee's work on multiemployer plans last year. We know what is going on, we know what is broken, and we know the various options for repairing the system.

It is time to put pen to paper and fix these plans that will protect the workers who have paid into them.

I yield the floor.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this week we are continuing to confirm more unobjectionable nominees who had to move through the Senate more slowly than they should. Yesterday we confirmed Sarah Daggett Morrison to serve as U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio, and despite the fact that our Democratic friends forced us to file cloture on her nomination, when she finally received a vote, she was confirmed 89 to 7.

That is probably because Ms. Morrison, like the other nominees we are considering this week, is thoroughly

noncontroversial and very well-qualified for the job. Thanks to the modest reforms to the Senate rules we put in place this spring, more nominees who fit this description are being confirmed in a fraction of the time it would have otherwise taken.

So I hope the strong bipartisan support we saw yesterday will be shown to the jurists we will vote to confirm on the Federal bench today: Pamela Barker to the Northern District of Ohio; Corey Maze to the Northern District of Alabama; Rodney Smith to the Southern District of Florida; Thomas Barber to the Middle District of Florida; and Jean-Paul Boulee to the Northern District of Georgia.

Together, these nominees possess more than a century of legal experience. Their résumés include work in State attorneys' offices, as county judges, and as State solicitor general. They include a former U.S. Army defense counsel and a U.S. Supreme Court litigator. Each has demonstrated a commitment to upholding the Constitution and preserving the rule of law. Each deserves strong, bipartisan support.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on another matter, the Trump administration's new agreement with Mexico marks an important breakthrough in the ongoing border crisis. It kept harmful tariffs from going into effect and cemented new steps to make certain that immigration enforcement and the rule of law are priorities on both sides of the border.

But, of course, the Mexican Government was not the only outstanding party with an unmet responsibility to address this crisis. Right here in Congress we have been waiting for 6 weeks now—6 weeks—for our Democratic colleagues to get serious about the administration's urgent request for more resources for border security and humanitarian efforts.

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



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This week's progress with our Mexican neighbors throws the Democrats' refusal to act into even starker relief. My colleagues and I have come to the floor day after day, week after week, detailing all the evidence that our southern border is in a state of crisis. The inflow of would-be illegal immigrants is unprecedented. Our facilities and our efforts to house and care for the individuals we detain are stretched literally to the breaking point. In short, the men and women stationed on our southern border are running on fumes. They have been charged with the tasks that circumstances have made incredibly difficult, and they are begging for more funding to keep up.

As I noticed yesterday, the most recent data show that apprehensions last month reached a 13-year high, with higher numbers in every category—more individuals, more family units, and more unaccompanied children arriving at border facilities that are already at overcapacity. The Border Patrol is teetering on the brink. They are nearing the point where they will be unable to perform even the most basic humanitarian and security functions for lack of resources. This is even with funds being diverted away from other important priorities at the Department of Homeland Security on a contingency basis.

So let me say it again one more time. The Department of Homeland Security has had to pull money and people off of other critical missions just to try and meet the overwhelming surge of human traffic down at the border. This is the Department that includes the Transportation Security Administration, the Secret Service, and the U.S. Coast Guard. Congress's inaction has backed them into a corner.

The officials who are responsible for protecting the homeland and safeguarding these individuals could not have been clearer in their pleading to Congress. They could not have been more clear. The Acting Homeland Security Secretary has told us already that "given the scale of what we are facing, we will exhaust our resources before the end of this fiscal year"—"exhaust our resources before the end of this fiscal year."

The Acting Director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement has said: "We are begging." "Begging." "We are asking Congress, please help us."

By any honest reckoning, this constitutes a crisis. That is why Americans across the entire political spectrum agree that Democrats in Congress need to put aside their allergy to finding an inch of common ground with President Trump and finally agree to get something done.

We know exactly what the holdup has been. The New York Times reported in late May exactly why this money didn't make it into the disaster funding package despite Republican efforts. "Democrats balked at allocating billions of dollars more toward border security." "Democrats balked." That is the New York Times.

Around the same time, one House Democrat admitted as much. He told reporters: "In my opinion, we do have to come up with some money. But we've got to convince our more progressive friends. . . ."

Well, look, I am sorry that a humanitarian crisis is not convincing enough to the far left. I am sorry that two separate New York Times editorials haven't made an impact on House Democrats either.

So here we have it. The New York Times editorial page, May 5—incredibly enough: "Congress, Give Trump His Border Money." That is the New York Times saying: "Give Trump [the] border money." They didn't listen.

So several weeks later, on May 23, as I quoted, "Democrats balked at allocating billions of dollars more toward border security."

On June 9, a couple of days ago, in the New York Times: "When Will Congress Get Serious About the Suffering at the Border?"

Here is the situation. The Trump administration and the New York Times are on the same side—and House Democrats don't want to take this up? Goodness, I am having a hard time remembering the last time the New York Times editorial page was on the same side as the Trump administration or Republicans in Congress. It is not a common sight, but here we are.

All of us agree that the border crisis is unacceptable and unsustainable, but still, House Democrats will not act. Yesterday, even my colleague the Democratic leader admitted where this extended delay is coming from. He told reporters that the House wasn't for it, but we were.

Yes, I guess that was true, but in any event, apparently that is where we are now. The House Democrats are the problem. So if they are serious about wanting to resolve this, I hope they will get a grip—get a grip on their far-left colleagues—in a hurry.

So here is what we are going to do. Chairman SHELBY has announced that the Appropriations Committee is going to vote on a \$4.5 billion package a week from tomorrow, with more than \$3 billion in humanitarian funds to expand shelter facilities, increase dedicated care for unaccompanied children, and another billion dollars to prop up critical security missions. I am grateful to Chairman SHELBY for interest in this and his leadership, along with the work of Senator CAPITO and Senator BLUNT.

I cannot urge my Democratic friends strongly enough to finally—what does it take to convince them to get serious?—find their way to yes.

House Democrats may want to come down to the left of the New York Times editorial page—there is not much space over there—but the rest of the country thinks it is just crazy—because it is.

Partisan theater in the House doesn't improve the conditions in border shelters. Melodramatic hearings and Presidential harassment don't secure the border. "The resistance" doesn't pay

the bills. This spectacle of opposition for opposition's sake, even on such an obvious nonpartisan priority, has been more than embarrassing. It is completely irresponsible. It needs to end soon.

In the coming days, it will. We are going to act in the Senate, and we are going to move forward to find the funding necessary to try to solve this humanitarian crisis.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

ANNIVERSARY OF PULSE NIGHTCLUB SHOOTING

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, on June 12, 2016, our State was attacked. Forty-nine innocent and beautiful lives were senselessly lost, and the lives of countless families and loved ones were forever changed.

The attack—an attack on America, our State, the city of Orlando, our Hispanic and gay communities—was a terrorist attack. This act of terrorism was an attempt to rip at the seams of our society, to divide us, to instill fear in our hearts. But Floridians are strong. Floridians are selfless. Floridians are fighters.

The days I spent in Orlando following the shooting will always be with me. I talked to many parents who lost their children. I went to funerals and wakes, and I sat in hospitals. It was one of the hardest things I have ever done as Governor and as a parent.

Through our State's most challenging times, we also saw incredible bravery and heroism. We saw it in the brave members of law enforcement who selflessly ran into danger to help those in need; we saw it in the doctors and nurses who tirelessly worked to save lives; and we saw in the community that came together after this horrific tragedy to repair and rebuild.

Three years removed from this unimaginable loss, our State is changed forever. Every year on this day, the State of Florida stands united with heavy hearts to honor the victims.

I vow to never forget that evil exists in this world, and we must always stand up against those who wish to harm us. And we vow to always remember the beautiful lives taken far too soon.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HEINOUS ATTACK AT THE PULSE NIGHTCLUB ON JUNE 12, 2016

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 246, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 246) honoring the memory of the victims of the heinous attack at the Pulse nightclub on June 12, 2016.