

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CORNYN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 194) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of May 8, 2019, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2019

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 24; and further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Dickson nomination under the previous order.

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

#### ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator MERKLEY for up to 75 minutes.

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

The Senator from Oregon.

#### TRIBUTE TO REBECCA WARD AND MEREDITH BOOKER

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I rise to recognize two members of my team who are leaving the Senate after their years of dedicated and important work. Becca Ward will be leaving on August 7, and Meredith Booker will be leaving on Friday, July 26.

Both of them joined my team as interns. They have worked their way up within Team Merkley and have made tremendous contributions to my office and to our Nation. I know they are both going to do extraordinary things in the next chapters of their lives, but, first, it is worth reflecting on their service in the U.S. Senate.

Becca Ward has been an invaluable member of our team for 6 years. She started as an intern in my Oregon office, and she worked her way up to be my lead adviser on climate chaos and energy policy. Becca joined Team Merkley as a full-time staff assistant in 2013. Over the years, she rose to be a

legislative correspondent and then a legislative aide. She drafted and sent responses to more than 225,000 Oregonians who were concerned about the climate and the environment.

Becca's terrific work made it clear that she was capable of more, so she became my top policy adviser on the threat of climate chaos. Climate chaos presents an existential threat to our planet. Her professionalism, her substantive expertise, her creativity, and the network she created proved to be powerful tools in our working to advance a progressive climate agenda.

When Becca first started working on climate change, she took the lead and the effort to protect the Arctic Ocean from oil and gas drilling, which led to the introduction of the Stop Arctic Ocean Drilling Act. Over the course of her years on this portfolio, she has helped a lot with the mission 100 bill, which aims to transition the United States into a 100-percent clean energy economy, and with my Keep It in the Ground Act, which would stop the expansion of the leasing of our Federal publicly owned properties for the production of fossil fuels.

More recently, she has contributed by collating the Senate's version of the Green New Deal, which has set a high bar for progressive climate efforts in the future. Just last week, she led my staff through the introduction of the Good Jobs for 21st Century Energy Act—a bold, new bill that required extensive coordination between the environmental community and the labor community. It is designed to create good-paying, family-wage jobs and to have high labor standards—a race to the top in employment during the transition to clean energy.

Becca's efforts to take on the global challenge of climate chaos hasn't been limited to the United States. She has repeatedly traveled with me and on my behalf to U.N. Conference of the Parties meetings and to other international events to engage in the diplomacy that is necessary for a true global response to a global crisis. She has shepherded my efforts through the Appropriations Committee to maintain funding for climate programs and to introduce and pass bipartisan amendments that support the Green Climate Fund.

In addition to her substantive policy responsibilities, she has been an incredible team player and a remarkable individual to have with us. I think it is safe to say that Becca will likely go down in Team Merkley history as the only member of our team who is also an Olympic medalist. She has been a fantastic manager and mentor to the members of the climate team and has been a huge contributor to our office's efforts to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in our work. I know her absence will be felt especially strongly every year when the annual cherry blossom run comes around.

Becca, you might need to plan a trip to DC for next spring.

While Becca is going to do incredible things for the planet in her next chapter of helping to expand a recently formed environmental organization, the Clean Energy Leadership Institute, she will be greatly missed here as a colleague, as a friend, and as a mentor to so many of us on the team.

We are counting on you, Becca, to save the planet, so no pressure. We appreciate your service to Oregon and to our country, and I look forward to hearing about your efforts in your journey ahead.

Now we turn to another member of Team Merkley, Meredith Booker, who is, sadly, leaving us in July—in fact, at the end of this week. Meredith embodies the heart and soul and work ethic of Team Merkley, and she will be sorely missed by everyone in the immigration, civil rights, housing, and LGBTQ rights portfolios.

Meredith joined our team as an intern in August of 2016 and quickly became indispensable, joining the legislative correspondent ranks in December of 2016.

In June of 2018, she was promoted to legislative aide and hasn't looked back, taking on more and more responsibility. She came into this position with a deep understanding and background in criminal justice and has brought a top-notch performance to every project and task she has touched. I think most of our office would agree. She is the best organized member of our team. Her meticulously crafted policy-tracker spreadsheet has helped our team stay on track in many areas and will remain a lasting part of her legacy here on Capitol Hill. It doesn't matter whether it is the smallest project or the biggest high-stakes moment, Meredith always gets it done and gets it done well.

This work ethic has extended from volunteering countless time to pitching in with coding parties. Coding parties are when the team stays late in the evening to work to try to have a prompt response to the thousands of letters we receive from Oregonians.

It stems from that to hustling to perfect every line and section of the 2019 Equality Act, resulting in a record of 47 Senate sponsors and bipartisan passage in the House of Representatives this May. That act has yet to be considered on the floor of the Senate, but it is way past time that we establish equality of opportunity for every single American.

Meredith skillfully navigated working with two different legislative assistants at times—and sometimes with one LA and sometimes with no LA—without letting a single decision, memo, or project fall through the cracks.

She managed reintroduction of the American Savings Act to expand high-quality retirement savings accounts to every American.

She managed our annual August Breastfeeding Month resolution to recognize the importance of breastfeeding

to American families and to the health of the children and the health of the mothers.

Just a short time ago, when the Department of Agriculture laid out a plan to destroy Civilian Conservation Corps centers across America, she dove into the tricky and wonky world of that and proceeded to work intensely to prevent that from happening and worked successfully to do that.

She threw herself into the challenge of the retirement integrity act, designed to make IRAs work more cost-effectively for working Americans rather than be a loophole for the megawealthy.

Though we have always known we were lucky to have Meredith on Team Merkley, she has truly stepped up and gone above and beyond in the last year, after my June 2018 trip to Brownsville led to intensive work on the issue of family and child separation and to a lot of efforts by many parties to push back against President Trump's cruelty to migrant families. When President Trump proposed locking families up in internment camps, she led the drafting of the No Internment Camps Act to say that we will never repeat that shameful chapter in our history. When President Trump threw thousands of children into unregulated child prisons at Tornillo and Homestead, she leapt into action and worked with the immigration team to draft the Shut Down Child Prison Camps Act to end this horrific practice.

Just a few weeks ago, she was instrumental to the introduction of the Stop Cruelty to Migrant Children Act, legislation to ensure we treat children with dignity and respect, and that act already has 40 Senators sponsoring it.

As I have traveled to investigate the Trump administration's policies toward migrants over the last year, Meredith's codel, or congressional delegation, binders have become legendary. Whether they are assembled in support of trips to Texas or Central America—or when she joined the trip herself, as she did earlier this year when we went to the child jail in Homestead, FL—you have never seen a binder assembled with so much meticulous care and attention to detail.

In addition to her many accomplishments supporting legislation and oversight trips, she worked with countless outside groups to organize a hugely successful hearing through the Democratic Policy and Communications Center, or DPCC, on family separation in June of 2018. She reprised that role this week—in fact, today—working to help organize another DPCC hearing on the treatment of children at the southern U.S. border. It occurred just earlier this afternoon, with the focus on stopping the cruel treatment of migrant children.

She has done all this without letting the effort to respond to Oregonians' letters fall through the cracks. She probably holds the record for our team responding to constituent mail, having

responded to more than 256,000 emails in less than 3 years and, in doing so, created 350 unique letters for those responses. That means, on average, that Meredith has created nearly 150 letters per year and sent approximately 100,000 responses per year. That is a lot of communicating with folks back home.

America is very lucky that Meredith is taking her talents to the legal arena. She will be starting at Loyola University of New Orleans this fall, working toward her law degree. Knowing how much she has done without a law degree—probably more than most fully accredited lawyers—I know the world is going to benefit enormously as she pursues that degree and puts it to work in the fight for justice and equality. The world of justice and equality will benefit just as we experience the loss of her talents here in the Senate.

Meredith, we are tremendously grateful for your contributions and will deeply miss you on Team Merkley. We will absolutely miss you both. You leave a tremendous hole in our team. Your final assignment is to make sure that we have some very talented people to carry on the terrific work you have been doing. Thank you.

#### MUELLER REPORT

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, as our Founders worked to design what would become the Constitution of the United States, they had certain core principles in mind—certain principles that were the exact opposite of the way government worked in Europe. They did not want to see America be a land run by a dictator or a King. They wanted to make sure that power was distributed between voting Americans, a principle Jefferson called the equal voice principle, because distributed power among the people would lead to laws by and for the people, not laws by and for the powerful.

They had another principle, and it was the opposite of what existed in Europe, where a King and perhaps the King's circle were above the law, not accountable to any core principles of conduct or any rules. What they did in their lives as rulers in that fashion just simply was accountable to no one.

But our Constitution had a different vision. The goal was to have everyone in America accountable to the law—that we are all in this together. No one is a King. No one is a dictator. That vision is really embodied in four simple words carved into the facade of the doors of the Supreme Court: Equal Justice Under Law.

If you stand here in the Johnson Room, just across the hallway, and you look out the window toward the Supreme Court, you see this: Equal Justice Under Law. It is a principle so foundational to our vision of a citizen-run nation, a nation by and for the people, that it was the source of my first political act.

If memory serves me well, I was a junior in high school. I read an article

in the evening newspaper. Now, at that point, many cities in the country had a morning newspaper, which was more of the business community's newspaper, and an evening newspaper, which was more the workers' newspaper, which made sense. For my father, a union machinist, his work started at 7 in the morning and concluded 9 hours later at 4 in the afternoon. He would come home, get the evening newspaper, read it, have dinner, and watch the evening news on television.

In that newspaper that evening, there was an article about Spiro Agnew, our former Vice President. He was convicted of taking \$100,000 in bribes, but what was his penalty? His penalty was a \$10,000 fine. I was enraged: Like, what? People get sent to prison for stealing a loaf of bread, and the Vice President illegally took \$100,000 and gets to keep 90 percent of it. What kind of a story is that to America, that if you are wealthy and powerful, you can commit crimes and keep the vast share of what you have taken in that crime? So I wrote an outraged letter to the newspaper, and the newspaper published it.

Equal Justice Under Law—it is a very important principle to our Nation. But today we face a political crisis—a crisis about whether we have a President who is above the law, and that somehow this phrase, this principle, the foundation of our country, doesn't apply to this particular President. If that stands, then we will have lost a core principle of our democratic Republic.

Tomorrow we are going to have testimony from former Special Counsel Mueller in the House of Representatives. He is scheduled for some 3 hours before the Judiciary Committee of the House and another couple of hours with the Intelligence Committee. He will be following up to share insights and answer questions related to this hefty document: Report On The Investigation Into Russian Interference In The 2016 Presidential Election.

There is a lot in this report. You wouldn't know that if you just listened to our Attorney General, because our current Attorney General Barr said there is nothing here—nothing in this. That is not the case, and I have come to the floor tonight to make that absolutely clear.

Here is the easiest way to summarize it. We received an open letter from more than 1,000 former prosecutors evaluating what is in this hefty book. It says:

We are former federal prosecutors. We served under both Republican and Democratic administrations at different levels . . . line attorneys, supervisors, special prosecutors, United States Attorneys, and senior officials at the Department of Justice. The offices in which we served were small, medium, and large; urban, suburban, and rural; and located in all parts of our country.

Each of us believes that the conduct of President Trump described in Special Counsel Robert Mueller's report would, in the case of any other person not covered by the