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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at 2 p.m.

## Senate

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2022

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Savior, lead us like a Shepherd. Lord, we experienced more mass shootings over the weekend leaving a carnage of dead and wounded. Forgive us when we do too little too late. Give us the prudence to anticipate the evil and choose the right priorities to prevent it.

Lord, provide our lawmakers with the ability to discern and do what is right, even when it is difficult. Give them the courage to speak the truth regardless of the consequences. Help them to be productive in all their endeavors as they strive to walk along the paths of justice.

And Lord, bless Ukraine.

We pray in our Savior's 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 PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Alex Wagner, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The Senator from Vermont.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### GUN CONTROL

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I will speak more on this subject later this week, but I spent much of last week, both Marcelle and I did, in Vermont. It is a very peaceful State.

We walk across the fields at our home, walk down the dirt road where

we live, and then go to various places just meeting with people all over the State. A lot of it was in what is called Chittenden County. That is about a quarter of the State's population. That is where I was a prosecutor, State's attorney is what we called it.

I made it a point during that time that if we had a violent crime, a gun crime, I would go to the scene, whether it was 3 o'clock in the morning or 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Some of the most violent ones were, of course, at 3 o'clock in the morning. I can still remember every single one of them like it was yesterday, but they were a tiny fraction of what we see every day.

I hear people say we should pray for these children. I would say pray that the Congress has the guts to stand up and pass real gun control legislation.

In Vermont, we limit the number of rounds you can have in a semiautomatic weapon during deer season. We ought to try to protect children as much as we do deer.

Again, fortunately in our State, the number of murders and shootings I went to were nothing like we see today. But I have awakened in the middle of the night remembering the scenes. When you are at a murder scene and it is a child who has been murdered and it is 3 o'clock in the morning, the grieving family is there, there is no way you forget it.

That is more than 50 years ago I was doing that. I can tell you exactly what each of those rooms looked like. I can tell you exactly who the person was I prosecuted for it. And I can tell you exactly how many times I prayed, Why

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



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did this have to happen and never let it happen again.

As I said, I will speak further on this. I know in my State of Vermont, we do have a very large percentage of gun owners. Most of them tell me, "Do something."

As I said, of course, pray for the children. Pray that the Congress does the right thing with real—with real—gun control.

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. MCCONNELL. Madam 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 MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

#### INFLATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Last week, we paused to honor the men and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to our Nation and in defense of our freedoms.

For families all across America, the long holiday weekend also kicked off the excitement of summer traditions, but, unfortunately, a year-and-a-half into the failed policies of this all-Democratic government, even modest family celebrations came with pricetags that were literally sky high.

Today, the average price of gas in America reached a new record high. There is now just one State in our whole country where average prices haven't passed \$4.30. From trips across town to visits with relatives, driving is becoming an even more painful proposition for working families.

In Boyd County, one Kentuckian said it now cost him about \$73 to fill up the tank.

I just hope those prices will go down.

Another in Lexington said:

I'm traveling up north to take care of my mother up in Michigan. It's a long haul, and yeah, it's hard when it is this expensive.

And sky-high fuel prices aren't just hurting drivers. April saw the biggest 1-month spike in airfare on record with tickets up nearly 20 percent. The cost of backyard cookouts and all other home-cooked meals are continuing to rise. Prices on everything from ground beef to eggs have clocked the fastest annual increase since 1979.

What about big household purchases? Many families wait for Memorial Day weekend sales to fill a need around the house. Well, tools and hardware are 11 percent more expensive than they were a year ago. Major appliances cost 12 percent more. And furniture is up almost 15 percent.

These record-setting prices have got working families literally surrounded, and the American people know exactly where these hardships are coming from. They know this pain is a direct—a direct—result of the failed policies

that Washington Democrats pursued even as everybody warned that their reckless spending would cause inflation.

A little more than a year ago, Democrats dumped \$2 trillion of liberal waste onto our economy. Their own experts—their own experts—told them not to do it. President Obama's top economist warned then it was "definitely too big for the moment."

President Clinton's Treasury Secretary said it could "set off inflationary pressures of a kind we have not seen in a generation." And both of them said it at the time.

It was reported a few days ago that even Secretary Yellen, the President's own Treasury Secretary, knew the spending spree was reckless and wished it were smaller.

But our colleague, the Democratic leader, brushed aside expert concerns, saying that "I do not think inflationary dangers, at least in the near term, are very real."

Well, now his party is presiding over out-of-control inflation, the worst in four decades, a year-on-year inflation rate of—listen to this—8.3 percent. And even that terrible number may be an understatement.

In the early 1980s, right after the last bout of inflation this bad, the Bureau of Labor Statistics changed how they measure inflation. Larry Summers has coauthored a new research paper that tries to create an apples-to-apples comparison between the inflation figures today versus 40 years ago.

So here is what they found:

The current inflation regime is closer to that of the late 1970s than it may at first appear.

In other words, Democrats have brought inflation much closer to the bad old days of the late seventies than the official numbers even make it look.

Of course, no matter which way economists measure it, the American people know historic inflation when they feel it. It is impossible to ignore, from the gas pump to the supermarket, to the big-box store.

On Democrats' watch, working families' hard-earned dollars are buying them less and less.

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

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

#### REMEMBERING JOHN EDWARD PORTER

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, the name "John Edward Porter" may not be well known to many people now, but there was a time when he had a special impact on America.

I was proud to call him a colleague and my friend. John Porter was a Congressman from Illinois who served at the same time I was a Member of the House. He did some remarkable things

in his life. In the famous 10th District, he was a real leader on many issues. He represented that district in Chicago's northern suburbs from 1980 until the year 2001 and for most of the time we served together in the House. I admired him. We always had a good, positive working relationship although we were of different political faiths. He was a leader and a voice for principled, bipartisan cooperation within our Illinois congressional delegation.

John Porter passed away last Friday. He was raised in a family where public service was a way of life. He took it to heart. He served in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1958 to 1964 and as an attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice during the Kennedy administration.

He was elected to the House in 1980 when his predecessor, Abner Mikva, resigned to become a Federal judge. The two men were different in political faith, but in many regards, they were the same. Ab Mikva, you see, was a legendary liberal Democrat, the son of Jewish immigrants from Ukraine who relied on welfare to survive the Great Depression. John Porter was a fiscally conservative Republican whose father was a judge. But they shared many values. They believed that public service was a noble profession and that government could make life better and that America must remain a beacon of hope for the world.

John Porter supported efforts to protect the environment in the earliest days. He championed human rights efforts across the globe and efforts to protect the environment at home. He was the founder of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus. He was a key supporter of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

John Porter was an independent thinker who defied the National Rifle Association to support a national ban on assault weapons in 1994. It took guts. John Porter did the right thing.

His greatest and most visionary contribution to America was in the field of biomedical research. He was chair of the powerful House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. He was a driving force in the House behind the successful effort to double the funding for the National Institutes of Health.

For those who may not know, the National Institutes of Health in Washington, DC, is the leading medical research agency in the world—in the world—and John Porter, this Congressman from Illinois, teamed up with two Senators to take on what seemed like an impossible assignment. He joined with Tom Harkin, a Senator from Iowa, a Democrat, and Arlen Specter, a Senator from Pennsylvania, a Republican. They set out to do the politically impossible—to double the budget for the National Institutes of Health.

The new funding came at a critical moment in history. It made possible discoveries that literally changed the