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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN W. HICKENLOOPER, a Senator from the State of Colorado.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Our Father in Heaven, in whom we live and move and have our being, we glorify Your precious Name.

Lord, we ask You to guide our law-makers as they influence the future of this Nation and world. Lead them with Your wisdom. Direct them with Your patience and protect them with Your power.

Lord, we pray that our Senators will faithfully fulfill the duties set before them, providing for the common defense, striving to bring domestic tranquility, and working to ensure liberty and justice for all.

Likewise, we pray that You would lead and bless American citizens, guiding them to protect liberty from sea to shining sea.

We pray in Your righteous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 20, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN W. HICKENLOOPER, a Senator from the State of Colorado, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. HICKENLOOPER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Florence Y. Pan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, our overwhelmed Customs and Border Protection personnel have already encountered more than 2 million illegal immi-

grants and counting just this fiscal year.

This is a larger group of people than the entire populations of 14 States, and this record-shattering 2 million apprehensions only counts the subset of people who were actually caught. Experts estimate hundreds of thousands more people on top of that number who simply got away.

The latest reports say that CBP encountered more than 200,000 people just in the month of August alone, and more than 20 percent of those people were not first-time border crossers but rather repeat offenders who had already previously been expelled or deported; tens of thousands of individuals who had already been thrown out, flooding back in every single month.

Orderly, legal immigration is part of what makes America strong; anarchy and open borders make us weak.

There is nothing compassionate or humane about the border crisis that Democrats' mixed signals and failed policies have unleashed.

It is not fair to American citizens; it is not fair to law enforcement; and it is not fair to the people who have been encouraged to undertake desperate and dangerous journeys by years of Democrats signaling to the world that there are no real consequences for breaking our laws and cutting in line.

Vice President HARRIS says "the border is secure." The American people know better, and they are furious. Illegal immigrants know better as well.

For years, Washington Democrats have attacked Republicans for calling for basic border security and law enforcement. The Democratic Party line throughout the last 5 years has been that enforcing existing immigration law would be cruel and securing our borders would be xenophobic, but over the last few days, some liberals seem to have changed their tune.

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



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Out of desperation, a few Governors along our southern border are now giving some Democrat-run States and cities just a tiny, tiny taste of what border communities have been enduring, literally, for years.

According to the Washington Post, the total number of individuals whom Texas and Arizona have helped relocate to New York, Washington, and other places in recent months is roughly on the order of the number of illegal immigrants who arrive at our southern border in a single day—1 day.

All those cities combined have had months to accept, between them, approximately 1 day's share of our Nation's illegal immigration.

But the Democratic mayor of New York City is now declaring that his government's resources are "at a breaking point"—at a breaking point.

According to the Post, these border States have sent to New York City less than 1 day's worth of illegal crossers, spread out over more than a month, and the self-proclaimed sanctuary city apparently cannot take it.

The Governor of Florida helped a tiny number of illegal immigrants, about four dozen, secure transportation to the wealthy liberal destination of Martha's Vineyard, filled with millionaires' mansions, which appointed itself a so-called sanctuary destination back in 2017.

Apparently, this sanctuary destination tolerated, fed, and housed the newcomers for less than 48 hours before having the National Guard promptly put them on a ferry and remove them to a military base instead.

Democrats, liberal activists, and the media are, predictably, melting down. There are absurd accusations flying around that it is somehow evil or illegal for Republican officials to help illegal immigrants move within our country. That would be breaking news because, of course, the Biden administration has been flying and busing illegal immigrants around the country on a regular basis.

According to one report from early 2021, the Biden administration was already filling Greyhound buses with people turning up at our border and driving them to various destinations from the South to the Midwest to the Northeast. Ah, but it was never to Martha's Vineyard.

So these well-to-do blue enclaves are finally witnessing the smallest fraction of the challenges that open borders have enforced on working-class communities all across our country.

INFLATION

Mr. President, now on another matter, Washington Democrats' runaway inflation has caused a nationwide crisis. It has put working families and small businesses in a bind from coast to coast.

Since President Biden took office, inflation has shot up a staggering 13.2 percent. For the average American household, this translates to hundreds and hundreds of extra dollars every

month, working overtime just to barely—barely—tread water.

In my home State of Kentucky, for example, the Democrats' inflation has forced proud, hard-working families to ask for help putting food on the table; in some cases, for the first time in their lives.

The director of the Jessamine County Food Pantry in Nicholasville says:

Our numbers here are going up like crazy. . . . We have problems actually getting food now. We're actually not giving away as much as we were just a couple months ago because I can't find it, and I can't afford it sometimes when I can find it.

And, of course, these challenges aren't limited to the Commonwealth.

In Clifton, CO, the director of one local food bank reports that she had served 1,000 more families in the first half of this year than in the first half of last year. Here is her quote:

They cannot short their rent bill, but they can short their grocery bill. And so they come here so I can fill the gap.

In coastal Georgia, the director of a network of food banks says distribution at her facilities had increased 38 percent from July to August. Meeting the increased demand has meant stomach-aching steep spikes in meat and dairy prices.

In Concord, NH, the director of the Friendly Kitchen says no one is ever turned away, but more and more people keep showing up for dinner.

I'm nervous it's going to get worse. I think it's going to get worse before it gets better.

Washington Democrats' inflation is absolutely hammering States like Colorado, Georgia, and New Hampshire. And Senate Republicans—we tried to stop it. We warned against inflation. We tried to block their \$2 trillion inflationary bill. We offered amendments. But all three of those States have two Senators who both voted in lockstep on party lines to ram through trillions—trillions—of dollars. One hundred percent of the U.S. Senators from those States voted to bring this on.

This is what happens when Washington Democrats put their own priorities ahead of our people.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

KIGALI AMENDMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, later today, the Senate will take the first step toward ratifying an amendment to one of the most successful international environmental agreements in modern history, the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.

Members can expect to cast the first vote on cloture later this afternoon

after the weekly party lunches. Today's vote will require 60 votes in the affirmative to move forward. And since the Kigali Amendment is part of a treaty, it will require two-thirds of the Chamber to ultimately ratify this provision.

The Kigali Amendment will be one of the most significant bipartisan measures the Senate takes on all year, and that is saying something, because we have done a lot.

It would affirm our country's intention to phase down the use of hydrofluorocarbons—commonly known as HFCs—by 85 percent over the next 15 years. Experts say this step alone could prevent half a degree Celsius of warming by the end of the 21st century. Is that incredible? Half a degree. We struggle to get there. This one measure will do it. That may not seem like much, but within the larger context of global temperature, it is really very significant.

There are two paths our country can take, depending on what we do with the Kigali Amendment. If we ratify this treaty, not only will we protect our planet, but this is an economic issue and an issue to go after China, which is a rogue nation in this regard. It will provide us a golden opportunity for American businesses to dominate in emerging business.

Every year, millions of refrigerators and AC units are sold around the world; and in the United States, many families own more than one refrigerator. That is a lot of appliances that will need HFC alternatives, which U.S. businesses, particularly, are working to prepare for. By one measure, the combined impact of ratifying the Kigali Amendment and other steps we have taken to reduce HFCs would create 150,000 new jobs and generate nearly \$39 billion in investment by 2027 as new markets open up for trade. So this, in many ways, is a pro-jobs measure, one supported by the Chamber of Commerce, by major retailers like Walmart, by the Semiconductor Industry Association, and many other business groups.

If we fail to ratify the amendment, the rest of the world is going to move on without us. Without Kigali, we are going to play second fiddle to nations like China, whose businesses will surpass ours in developing viable HFC alternatives, taking jobs that, by all rights, belong here in America. And by 2033, parties to Kigali will be prohibited—prohibited—from any trade in HFCs with non-Kigali nations. We will lose out tens of billions of dollars of sales.

There is no reason to have that happen. Ratifying Kigali will not require any change in the current U.S. law. We already have domestic policies phasing out HFCs here at home, so we are putting into practice many of the reforms the Kigali Amendment calls for, and no consumer will have to change any appliance.

So for the sake of U.S. businesses, for the sake of U.S. innovators, for the