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## Senate

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.

O God, You reveal Yourself in the glory of the Heavens and in the whisper of conscience. Make us aware of Your presence as this day unfolds. Lord, grant that this knowledge of Your involvement in our day will influence our thoughts, words, and deeds. Help us to focus on serving and pleasing You as You lift us above suspicions and fears. Sustain our lawmakers in their important work. Lord, remind them that to do something well usually requires the patience to persevere. Increase in us all a hunger and thirst for righteousness.

We pray in Your righteous 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 pro-

ceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves, of Delaware, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

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.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER  
The majority leader is recognized.

### BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, Members are working around the clock to finish the year on a strong note. This week, the Senate will consider the bipartisan National Defense Authorization bill, which I hope we will send to the President's desk very soon. The NDAA has consistently been a bipartisan effort, and that is my expectation this year too.

On the nominations front, we are going to keep working as long as we can to confirm as many exceptional Biden nominees as possible. Since the start of the Biden administration, we have confirmed a total of 95—95—judicial nominees to the bench, including 1 Supreme Court Justice, 68 district judges, and 26—26—circuit court judges.

Let me say that again. Over the past 2 years, we have confirmed 95 new judges to the bench, including 26 circuit court judges, surpassing the first 2 years of the past two administrations.

Today, we will confirm judge No. 96 when we vote on Tamika Montgomery-Reeves to serve as a circuit judge on the Third Circuit. An alumnus of the

University of Mississippi and Georgia Law School, Judge Montgomery-Reeves served as a clerk in Delaware before embarking on a successful career in private practice. In 2005, she was appointed to the Delaware Court of Chancery and then to the State supreme court in 2020, becoming the first Black woman to ever serve in either court.

When confirmed, Judge Montgomery-Reeves will join in the proud company of so many other Biden appointees who, little by little, are reshaping our courts for the better. Of the 95 judges we have confirmed to date, 71 are women, about 75 percent; 65 are people of color, almost 70 percent; 45 are women of color, nearly 50 percent; and 23 are Black women, nearly 25 percent.

We have never seen a class of new judges that brings so much diversity, variety, and dynamism in a single 2-year stretch.

And, of course, it is not just the diversity of demography that matters. In the last 2 years, the Senate has confirmed more civil rights lawyers, public defenders, election attorneys, immigration lawyers than we typically see in this Chamber. It is a big reason today why our courts are more balanced and more dynamic and more experienced than they were 2 years ago.

You can be sure that judges will remain a top priority in the Congress to come. More judges mean a more balanced judiciary, and a more balanced judiciary will mean greater trust in our courts in the long run—so important for our country at this moment in time because the MAGA Supreme Court and so many of these other MAGA judges have caused people to lose faith in the courts.

### OMNIBUS

Madam President, on the omni, as we keep working on confirming more judges and advancing the defense authorization bill, both sides also continue negotiating a deal for a yearlong

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



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omnibus. Over the weekend, appropriators held positive and productive conversations, enough that both sides are moving forward in good faith to reach a deal, even if it is not going to be everything both sides want.

Later this week, Members should be prepared to take quick action on a CR, a 1-week CR, so we can give appropriators more time to finish a full funding bill before the holidays.

I am optimistic we could take action on a CR rather quickly and avoid the shutdown that neither side wants—and that is a 1-week CR. The benefits of an omnibus are as many as the number of citizens in America.

All of us are better off when the government is fully equipped to provide vital services millions rely on. One group who very much needs an omnibus are our veterans.

Last week, the VA wrote Congress a letter warning that a CR would mean a \$10 billion shortfall for the VA. That means fewer healthcare workers on the job, it would mean a surge in the backlog of claims, and, God forbid, it would throw a wrench in the VA's plan to implement something that we are also proud that we passed on a bipartisan basis this summer: the PACT Act.

There is no reason we need to go down this road. The brave Americans who have served our country in uniform should never have to suffer the consequences of failing to fund the government; but, unfortunately, that is the risk they face as of right now if we don't finish the job.

So to all my colleagues, let's continue negotiations in good faith. Both sides are going to have to give in order to get it done, but it will be worth it if it means doing right by our veterans, our servicemembers in uniforms, our kids, their families. That is what is at stake here in this process to fund the government.

#### ANTI-SEMITISM

Madam President, finally, on anti-Semitism, earlier today I had the honor of addressing a gathering organized by the Orthodox Union in New York, to address the dangers—serious dangers—of rising anti-Semitism. Over the past two months, American Jews have watched in horror as numerous public figures, from entertainers all the way to former President Trump, have fanned the flames of anti-Semitism through their words and conduct.

It is a sad reminder that after decades of hard-won progress, unfortunately, sadly, anti-Semitism is on a resurgence here in America. We see anti-Semitism not only through slurs and graffiti and threats, all of which are abhorrent and unacceptable, but also physical violence against our Jewish brothers and sisters, sometimes tragically deadly—Poway, Jersey City, Monsey, Pittsburgh. And not to mention the weekly attacks against synagogues and schools and Jewish communities that never reach the spotlight. All American Jews know and remember these names. They are seared in

our memories. And unless we can come together as a community and as a country to address this crisis, I fear we will soon have to add more names to the list.

Of course, I have personal experience about this kind of anti-Semitism in terms of my family. My great-grandparents lived in a place in western Ukraine. They had 18 children, believing devoutly in the Bible and God's first command to man, which was "be fruitful and multiply."

My grandfather was one of three of those 18 who came to America, but the other 15 stayed there. And when the Nazis came into western Ukraine, they told my great-grandmother—her husband had been a well-known Jewish scholar and had passed away—and they told my great-grandmother to gather her larger family on the porch. Thirty-five people gathered on the porch from ages 85 to 4 months. The Nazis said: Come with us. She was a tough lady, she said: We are not moving. And they machine-gunned every one of them down.

These are the stakes. When the former President of the United States welcomes, at his own dinner table, several vicious anti-Semites, and then rather than apologize, he lectures American Jewish leaders for insufficient loyalty, it is incumbent on all of us to speak out.

I am proud of many Jewish organizations that did speak out, some of them former strong allies of the former President. It has made a big difference. Now, of course, America's roots of democracy are far deeper than those that existed in Europe. But the lesson of history is we must speak out against bigotry of all types or it grows. Its evil seed grows.

I shudder—I shudder—to think of what it would mean for the safety of our children, their children, and their children after that if the ideology elevated by the former President were to continue to seep into our society like a poison. Every single one of us, without exception, has an obligation to call out the poison of anti-Semitism and all other bigotries wherever they arise.

To tolerate them and let them grow risks horrors that we have seen in the past around the globe and we don't want to see in the future.

I yield the floor.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

#### NDAA

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, the Senate gavels in today with our annual defense bill still unpassed, with less than 1 week remaining of government funding, and less than 2 weeks left until our hard stop for the holidays on December 23. That is the bad news. But the good news is that both sides have a clear understanding of what it takes to finish our work on a bipartisan basis.

First, Senators INHOFE and REED and their House counterparts have passed

out a strong bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act. The Senate should turn to it as soon as possible.

But, of course, Congress authorizing the tools, training, and equipment that our Armed Forces need will accomplish very little if we fail to then provide the actual funding.

Both sides know what it would take for the Senate to pass a full-year government funding bill into law. There is no mystery here. A funding agreement would need to fully fund our national defense at the level written into the NDAA without—without—lavishing extra funding beyond what President Biden even requested onto Democrats' partisan domestic priorities. In other words, do not go beyond what the President asked for earlier this year on the domestic side.

Our Democratic colleagues have already spent 2 years massively—massively—increasing domestic spending, using party-line reconciliation bills outside the normal appropriations process.

So, clearly, our colleagues cannot now demand even more—more—domestic spending than President Biden even requested in exchange for funding the U.S. military. Funding our national defense is a basic governing duty.

The Commander in Chief's own party does not get to demand a pile of unrelated goodies in exchange for doing their job and funding our Armed Forces.

If House and Senate Democratic colleagues can accept these realities in the very near future, we may still have a shot at assembling a full-year funding bill that will give our military commanders the certainty they need to invest, plan, and stay competitive with rivals like China.

If our Democratic colleagues can't accept those realities, the option will be a short-term, bipartisan funding bill into early next year.

#### YEMEN

Madam President, now on a related matter, events from Europe to Asia, to the Middle East continue to demonstrate on a daily basis why American global strength and leadership are essential for protecting our homeland, our core interests, and our allies and partners.

But, unfortunately, Senator SANDERS from Vermont has drafted a resolution that would pull America back from global leadership in a clumsy and deeply counterproductive way.

Our colleague has prepared a resolution attempting to further limit America's support for the U.N.-recognized Government in Yemen and the Saudi-led coalition helping defend it against Iranian-backed Houthi terrorists.

I welcome debate about American policy toward Iran, and that is what this resolution is really about—not Yemen, but Tehran.

There is no question about Tehran's role in the fighting in Yemen from the very beginning. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps is intimately involved.