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## Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, dressed in a robe of righteousness, we place our trust in You. You refuse to let our enemies triumph over us. As we return to the business of freedom, use the Members of this body to accomplish Your will.

Lord, strengthen them to never abandon the struggle, and inspire them to endure to the end. Help them to press forward to the goal of Your ideal for humanity. Inspire them to choose the more difficult right.

Lord, remind them that perspiration is usually the price for laudable accomplishments, and that without the cross, there is rarely a crown.

We pray in Your merciful 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 (Mrs. MURRAY).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 30, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WELCH 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 to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Darrel James Papillion, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

### DEBT CEILING

Mr. SCHUMER. So, Mr. President, 3 days ago, President Biden and Speaker MCCARTHY announced a bipartisan budget agreement that will protect the U.S. economy while eliminating the threat of a catastrophic default.

I support the bipartisan agreement that President Biden has produced with Speaker MCCARTHY. Avoiding default is an absolute imperative. The damage that default would inflict on our country, our economy, and our families

would be enormous and take years from which to recover.

Of course, nobody is getting everything they want. There is give on both sides. But this agreement is the responsible, prudent, and very necessary way forward.

Today, the House of Representatives is beginning the process of moving that legislation through the Chamber. When this bill arrives in the Senate, it is my plan to bring it to the floor as quickly as possible for consideration. Senators must be prepared to act with urgency to send a final product to the President's desk before the June 5 deadline.

I commend President Biden and his team for producing a sensible compromise under the most difficult of circumstances.

The bipartisan agreement accomplishes two major goals: First and foremost, it takes default off the table, sparing Americans from immense economic pain, and, second, it protects key investments that are essential for growing our economy, for fixing our infrastructure, and for making the United States more competitive on the world stage.

Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid will not be touched. Our veterans will be cared for. And, again, we are avoiding the single worst outcome possible—a default on the national debt.

From the start, I have said that the best way forward to avoiding default is bipartisan cooperation, and that is what this agreement represents. Again, nobody gets everything they wanted, but this bill is the responsible, prudent, and necessary way forward.

A default on the national debt would be one of the great disasters in our Nation's economic history. It would mean another painful recession. It would mean 8 million fewer jobs, and it would mean soaring costs on credit card payments, mortgages, small business loans, and diminished 401(k)s. There is no reason to subject the American people to the pain of default.

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



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We still have more work to do in Congress, but I am optimistic that the path has now been paved and our objectivity is clear. We must pass this bipartisan agreement avoiding default as soon as we can. I hope the House moves quickly, and I will make sure the Senate moves quickly the moment this bipartisan bill is sent to us by the House.

#### BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. President, now, on Senate business, as Congress fulfills its responsibility to avoid default, the Senate begins this work period with a lot of work to do both on and off the floor. Later this afternoon, the Senate will vote on the confirmation of Darrel Papillion to be a district judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana. Off the floor, Senators will be busy with a number of important hearings on a wide range of bipartisan priorities.

This Thursday, for instance, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will hold a markup on a critical treaty for the United States: the U.S.-Chile tax treaty. At stake in this treaty is access to critical minerals like lithium that make everything from iPhones to EVs function. The world is racing to source these materials, and this U.S.-Chile treaty would give America an important edge. Thursday's markup represents a crucial step toward ratifying this treaty.

Also during this work period, I look forward to working with colleagues on both sides to begin the process of advancing bipartisan legislation to, one, outcompete the Chinese Government; two, prepare for a future defined by artificial intelligence; three, to lower the costs of prescription drugs, including insulin; four, to strengthen rail safety regulations; and, five, to build on our work from the past 2 years to make the United States more competitive and more prosperous in the 21st century.

I thank my colleagues for their good work.

I yield the floor.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

#### DEBT CEILING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 4 months ago, Speaker MCCARTHY invited President Biden to start negotiating an agreement to preserve the full faith and credit of the United States and to begin to get our Nation's financial house in order.

The Speaker stood ready to discuss a responsible way forward, but for weeks on end, the Biden administration and the Senate Democratic leader insisted that there would be no discussion of reasonable reforms to Federal spending. Washington Democrats wanted a green light to spend more taxpayer dollars with no strings attached. Well, the people's House had other plans.

Speaker MCCARTHY and his team committed to what I said repeatedly was the only way to get an outcome. Just as with 7 of the last 10 debt limit

agreements in recent history, House Republicans focused on reaching a bipartisan agreement to put reasonable caps on Federal spending.

The Speaker's deal secures reductions in discretionary spending. But this top-line achievement is actually just part of the story. House Republicans also succeeded in clawing back \$28 billion in unspent COVID emergency funds, they eliminated this year's budget for hiring new IRS agents, and they expanded work requirements to put more Americans on sustainable paths out of poverty. They put an important down payment on permitting reform by imposing a shot clock on the costly bureaucratic reviews that hamstring infrastructure projects. And they forced the executive branch to start balancing the cost of new regulations with corresponding cuts—a move that would have saved taxpayers \$1.5 trillion in just the past 2 years.

Last fall, the American people elected a divided government. After 2 years of total Democratic control—2 years of radical spending and runaway inflation—they decided to send a Republican majority to the people's House. They decided to require that President Biden and Washington Democrats start working with Republicans on the biggest issues facing our country.

Now divided government means negotiated deals. It means nobody gets everything they want. But in this case, it means the American people got a whole lot more progress toward fiscal sanity than Washington Democrats wanted to give them.

Speaker MCCARTHY and House Republicans deserve our thanks. This spring, they passed the only viable legislation that both preserved our Nation's full faith and credit and made real progress toward getting Federal spending under control.

House Republicans' unity forced President Biden to do his job. It is really just that simple. And now Congress will vote on legislation that locks in that important progress.

Republicans have a tremendous opportunity to take on an existential challenge facing our economy and future generations of Americans. We have a chance to start bringing Washington Democrats' reckless spending to heel. Soon it will be the Senate's turn to put this historic agreement on the President's desk. Let's not pass up our shot.

#### HONORING DEPUTY CALEB CONLEY

Now on an entirely different matter, Mr. President, yesterday, our Nation took pause to remember the brave service men and women who laid down their lives in defense of our country. Today, I would like to take a moment to honor another fallen hero from my home State of Kentucky who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Sheriff's Deputy Caleb Conley was shot and killed last week during a traffic stop in Scott County. Deputy Conley served 8 years in the U.S. Army

before coming home to join law enforcement in Kentucky.

He was a hard worker and a man of profound faith. His dedication to protecting and serving his community was known all across the Commonwealth.

Elaine and I continue to hold his wife Rachel, their young children, his parents, and the entire Scott County Sheriff's Office in our prayers.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. 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.

#### NOMINATION OF DARREL JAMES PAPILLION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, pending before the U.S. Senate is the nomination of Darrel Papillion, to be U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana. I want to say a word about this nomination because it indicates a positive development in the Senate Judiciary Committee, which the Acting President pro tempore and I share membership in, and the fact that this is a bipartisan nomination.

On May 11, Darrel Papillion was voted out of committee by a vote of 15 to 6. Senators on the Republican side—GRAHAM, CORNYN, KENNEDY, and TILLIS—joined all committee Democrats in voting for this nominee. He received the unanimous rating of "well qualified" from the American Bar Association, and he has the obvious support of the two Louisiana Senators—CASSIDY and KENNEDY—both of whom returned positive blue slips, which is committee process, and both of whom are Republican.

Papillion had a B.A. from Louisiana State University and a J.D. from LSU's Paul M. Hebert Law Center before clerking for Associate Justice Catherine Kimball on the Louisiana Supreme Court.

He entered private practice in New Orleans where he specialized in the defense of products liability actions. Since moving to Baton Rouge in 1999, Papillion's main areas of practice have been personal injury and wrongful death litigation. Papillion has tried at least 33 cases to verdict, including more than a dozen jury trials. He has been a special prosecutor for the East Baton Rouge District Attorney's Office and a mediator for mediation cases in South Louisiana. He has served as a special master in State court on three different occasions.

He is deeply involved in the Louisiana legal community in having served as the president of both the Louisiana State Bar Association and the Baton Rouge Bar Association. Let me repeat that—the president of the Louisiana State Bar Association.

The committee received several letters of support from individuals and organizations on his behalf: the former