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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

Today's opening prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Capt. Volodymyr Marius Steliac. He is the installation chaplain for the Air National Guard Readiness Center, Joint Base Andrews, and pastor of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, Silver Spring, MD.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we come before You today, humbly seeking Your guidance and wisdom as we gather in the Halls of the U.S. Senate. We recognize the importance of this esteemed institution and the impact it has on the lives of millions of people, both within this Nation and around the world.

We are grateful for the principles of freedom, justice, and democracy the United States represents. We acknowledge this Nation's role as a beacon of hope and a force for good in the world.

We lift up in our prayers the Senators and all those who serve in this honorable Chamber. May You grant them the insight to make decisions that align with Your divine will, decisions that promote life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

We also pray for the continued pursuit of peace, freedom, and dignity for all people. We thank You for the compassion and solidarity shown by this Nation under Your leadership, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Almighty God, bless and guide this Senate session. May it be conducted with integrity, wisdom, and a commitment to the common good. May Your presence be felt in every deliberation, and may the decisions made here be in accordance with Your divine plan.

I offer this prayer in Your Holy Name, for Yours is the glory now and forever. 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 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 RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK 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 ses-

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Shanlyn A.S. Park, of Hawaii, to be United States District Judge for the District of Hawaii.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday, I spoke here on the Senate floor about a subject that is highly personal and yet of immense importance: the rise of anti-Semitism in America. I spoke out because as the highest Jewish elected official in the country and in American history, I felt an obligation to say aloud what is felt within the hearts of so many Jewish people across the country and around the world.

After October 7, Jewish Americans are feeling singled out, targeted, and isolated. In many ways, we feel alone. The solidarity that Jewish Americans initially received from many of our fellow citizens was quickly drowned out by other voices.

I want to be clear. I believe most Americans who are criticizing Israeli's policies are not anti-Semitic, nor that the vast majority of criticism of Israel's policies is inherently anti-Semitic per se. But it cannot be denied that in too many instances, anti-Semites are taking advantage of the pro-Palestinian movement to espouse hatred and bigotry toward the Jewish people. Similarly, on the hard right, the poison of anti-Semitism has reached levels over these past few years we have not witnessed perhaps ever in America.

All Americans share a responsibility and an obligation to fight against anti-Semitism. We have an obligation to fight back against all forms of bigotry, be it Islamophobia or racism against

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



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Black Americans or demonizing the immigrant. Whether it comes from the left or from the right, anti-Semitism is an evil that must be condemned.

So, as I said yesterday, Americans ask, how can we help combat that? As I said yesterday, my plea to the American people of all creeds and backgrounds is this:

First, learn the history of the Jewish people, who have been abandoned repeatedly by their fellow countrymen—left isolated and alone to combat anti-Semitism, with disastrous results. I talked about this issue at some length in the speech I gave yesterday, and I would urge all Americans to read it.

Second, reject the illogical and double standard that is once again being applied to the plight of Jewish victims and hostages, to some of the actions of the Israeli Government, and even to the existence of a Jewish State. The glaring double standard where so many support nationhood for so many other peoples but not for the Jews must be condemned.

Third, understand why Jewish people defend Israel—not because we wish harm on Palestinians but because we fear a world where Israel is forced to tolerate the existence of groups like Hamas that want to wipe out all Jewish people from the planet. We fear a world where Israel—the place of refuge for Jewish people—will no longer exist. If there is no Israel, there will be no place for the Jewish people to go when they are persecuted in other countries.

I want to thank my colleagues for taking the time to listen, not just to my remarks yesterday but to all Jewish Americans speaking out against the rise of anti-Semitism.

I would like to thank the Republican leader for his gracious words after my remarks and the so many Members in this Chamber, Democrat and Republican, who made comments to me that they so respected my speech. Many said it had to be given. I agree with that.

Both parties have an obligation to work together to eliminate the poison of anti-Semitism and all forms of intolerance wherever we see it, regardless of who says it. I hope we can continue working together in this Chamber to advance that very noble goal.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. President, now on the supplemental, talks on finding a way to pass a much needed national security supplemental package continue here in the Senate.

In our supplemental, we must deliver aid to Israel, aid to Ukraine, humanitarian assistance to innocent civilians in Gaza, and fund military capabilities in the Indo-Pacific. All these national security issues are related and should move together.

Yesterday, I spoke directly to both Leader MCCONNELL and Speaker JOHNSON and made clear that if Republicans don't work with us in a bipartisan way on the border, passing a supplemental is going to be very difficult.

I was deeply troubled by reports yesterday that Speaker JOHNSON joined Senate Republicans and made a push to inject more H.R. 2 provisions into the Senate supplemental. That is precisely the kind of thing that undermines the entire supplemental, including aid to Israel, aid to Ukraine, and humanitarian aid to Gaza.

We all know the border is a problem that we should deal with, but it is not related to Ukraine or to Israel or to the Indo-Pacific. It has been put in there by Republicans, and that means there is an onus on them to make sure it is bipartisan.

Democrats are willing to work with Republicans on commonsense, realistic border security, but we can't have the hard right essentially say it is H.R. 2 or nothing. If Speaker JOHNSON or, for that matter, the negotiators feel they have to listen to what JOHNSON can pass just among his caucus, we will never get anything done. Democratic votes are going to be needed in the House to pass this legislation. We all know that. So this "H.R. 2 or nothing" or something close to "H.R. 2 or nothing" is a proposal that could not pass the Senate or the House.

Democrats—the solution for passing the supplemental is bipartisan compromise, and we have shown that we are willing to do it. The wrong answer is to let Ukraine aid, let Israel aid, let aid to civilians in Gaza all get bungled because the hard right wanted H.R. 2 or something close to it.

I urge my Republican colleagues not to let that happen because at the end of the day, what is holding this up is not the issues of Israel, Ukraine, humanitarian aid, or the Indo-Pacific; it is border, and that was injected by our Republican colleagues. Please, they should work with us to fix it in a bipartisan way or we won't get anything done.

MILITARY PROMOTIONS

Mr. President, on Senator TUBERVILLE, anger is reaching a boiling point in the Senate over the immense damage Senator TUBERVILLE has done to our military by holding up hundreds of critical military nominations. Soon, we will act to bring these holds to an end.

A few weeks ago, the Rules Committee passed a resolution that would enable the Senate to quickly confirm all the nominees currently on hold. The resolution is carefully tailored to solve the current impasse.

Now it sounds like Senator TUBERVILLE has told Republicans he is trying to find a way out of the mess he has created, although he has not yet provided many details. We are willing to give our Republican colleagues a chance to solve this problem on their own. But let me be clear: If Republicans are not able to get Senator TUBERVILLE to stand down quickly, we are going to hold a vote on our resolution to confirm these nominees before we leave this year. These reckless military holds must come to an end.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, on nominations, today on the floor, the Senate will proceed with the nominations of two extraordinary judicial nominees. We will first confirm Shanlyn Park to serve as a district judge for the District of Hawaii. Once confirmed, Judge Park will become the only Native Hawaiian woman on the Federal bench.

Later this afternoon, we will move forward with the nomination of Irma Ramirez to serve as a circuit judge for the Fifth Circuit. Judge Ramirez is an accomplished and well-respected litigator who would bring over 30 years of legal experience to the Fifth Circuit. If confirmed, Judge Ramirez will be the first Latina to serve on the Fifth Circuit and the only active Latino judge on the court.

I will enthusiastically support both nominees today, and this Senate majority will continue to prioritize judges moving forward.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. President, on AI and our insight forums, yesterday, the Senate held our seventh bipartisan AI Insight Forum. We had an enlightening and informative discussion, and I want to thank my Senate colleagues who stopped by to listen and learn from the experts.

Our discussion focused on a few of the most critical issues we face with AI: transparency, explainability, intellectual property, and copyright. We had a consensus on a few important points: We must create and enforce protections for creators to maintain their identities in the age of AI. We must protect American companies' IP and make sure America sets the international standard for IP. We must make sure AI systems are transparent and that the public can understand why AI systems produce the answers they do. And we must do all this while continuing to prioritize our North Star when it comes to AI: innovation.

Thanks again to Senators ROUNDS, YOUNG, and HEINRICH for helping organize these AI Insight Forums.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. President, on the Judiciary Committee's actions today, the words etched on the front of the Supreme Court read "Equal Justice Under Law." But when ultrarich ideologues can use their wealth to potentially leapfrog to the front of the line of justice, the promise of equal justice is violated, and the result is a crisis of confidence in the integrity of our courts.

So, today, the Senate Judiciary Committee is taking an important step to restore Americans' confidence in the Supreme Court by voting to authorize subpoenas to Harlan Crow and Leonard Leo, who have both used their power and wealth to gain undisclosed access to Supreme Court Justices.

I support the Judiciary Committee's vote to authorize these subpoenas because, frankly, the American people are tired of seeing reports of Supreme Court Justices accepting lavish gifts and vacations from billionaires and