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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

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

Let us pray.

Holy God, who inhabits eternity, lead our lawmakers with Your might. Help them to not run ahead of You or ignore Your wisdom. Restore their spirits with trust and hope, and order their steps toward Your desired destination. Lord, keep them calm in the quiet center of their lives so that they may be serene even in life's swirling stresses. Fill them with the peace that comes from keeping their focus on You. Help them to listen to others as attentively as they want others to listen to them.

And, Lord, please bring peace to our troubled world.

We pray in Your great 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 16, 2024.

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 session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ramona Villagomez Manglona, of the Northern Mariana Islands, to be Judge for the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands for a term of ten years. (Reappointment)

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, right now, the world is in desperate need of American leadership. Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Iran's attack on Israel, and the Chinese Government's encroachments on the South Pacific threaten world peace, threaten America's prosperity, and threaten the very future of western democracy.

That is why, 2 months ago, the Senate passed a bipartisan national secu-

rity supplemental with aid for Ukraine, for Israel, for the South Pacific, and for humanitarian assistance. We have called on the House of Representatives repeatedly to move our bill because the fastest way—the surest way—for Congress to get desperately needed aid to our allies is for House Republicans to put the supplemental on the floor. It would pass. That was true 2 months ago. It is still true today.

Yesterday evening, Speaker JOHNSON laid out a process for House consideration of the supplemental that would break it up into separate parts. I am reserving judgment on what will come out of the House until we see more about the substance of the proposal and the process by which the proposal will proceed. Hopefully, we will get details of the Speaker's proposal later today.

Again, time is of the essence.

Israel was attacked for the first time in its history directly by Iran. The people of Ukraine are now in all-out desperation. In fact, last week, the head of the U.S. European Command testified before the House Armed Services Committee that Russia's Army is now 15 percent larger than it was at the start of the war, and in a matter of weeks, Russia will outgun Ukraine by 10 to 1—10 to 1. That is not a very good prospect for Ukraine's survival. And anyone who thinks that the war in Ukraine will stay in Ukraine, remember the warning of Japanese Prime Minister Kishida:

Ukraine today may be East Asia tomorrow.

Around the world, civilians caught in the crossfires of war await desperately needed humanitarian assistance.

So the time for delay is over. Democrats have shown repeatedly our willingness to compromise to get important things done; and I will remind everyone of what I said from the beginning of this Congress: The only way to get things done is in a bipartisan way.

Again, we await to see more details of the Speaker's proposal. I urge him to

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



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keep working in a bipartisan way to ensure this vital aid gets to our friends abroad as quickly as possible.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT

Mr. President, now on Senate business, last night, I moved to place the House-passed FISA reauthorization bill on the legislative calendar. The Senate must pass FISA reauthorization by the April 19 deadline, just a few days away. We don't have much time to act.

To keep the process on FISA moving today, I will file cloture on the motion to proceed to the House-passed bill. Democrats and Republicans are going to have to work together to meet the April 19 deadline. If we don't cooperate, FISA will expire. So we must be ready to cooperate.

MAYORKAS IMPEACHMENT

Mr. President, on another matter, this afternoon, we expect the House will deliver the Articles of Impeachment of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. I urge all my colleagues to be in their seats when the articles are presented later today.

Once we receive the articles, the Senate will convene on Wednesday as a Court of Impeachment, and Senators will be sworn in as jurors. Senate President Pro Tempore **PATY MURRAY** will preside.

As I have said repeatedly, we want to address this issue as expeditiously as possible. Impeachment should never be used to settle a policy disagreement.

Let me say that again. Impeachment should never be used to settle a policy disagreement.

Talk about awful precedence? This would set an awful precedent for Congress. Every time there is a policy disagreement in the House, they send it over here and tie the Senate in knots to do an impeachment trial? That is absurd. That is an abuse of the process. That is more chaos.

Nevertheless, when the House is ready to send us the articles, the Senate will act.

CHIPS AND SCIENCE ACT

Mr. President, now on chips, yesterday, the Biden administration announced a preliminary deal with Samsung to provide over \$6 billion in funding from Chips and Science to build a new semiconductor manufacturing and research center in Texas. The administration's deal with Samsung supports over \$40 billion of investment that is expected to create over 17,000 new construction jobs and over 4,000 new manufacturing jobs—all made possible by Chips and Science.

Thanks to the investments made in Chips and Science, I am proud to say that the United States is well on its way to our goal of producing 20 percent of the world's leading-edge chips by the end of the decade.

The Chips and Science investment is bringing manufacturing back to America, is shoring up our supply chains to prevent the kinds of chip shortages that raised prices during the pandemic, and is creating good-paying jobs to grow the middle class.

Now, we still have a lot of work to do, but these announcements are proof that the Democratic agenda is delivering real results for the American people and for our economy.

CREDIT CARD FEES

Mr. President, on credit card fees, last month, the Biden administration announced a new \$8 cap on credit card late fees that would help millions of Americans save up to \$10 billion a year.

The Biden administration's push to cut down excess late fees is great news for the people who have been taken advantage of by the big credit card companies for years and years.

But, now, if you can believe it, Republicans are pushing a bill to overturn the Biden administration's rule and let big credit card companies get richer at the expense of hard-working Americans. The Republican bill argues that even allowing big credit card companies to charge Americans absurdly high late fees will "promote financial discipline and responsibility." Whose side are they on? It is hard to believe Republicans are actually trying to increase credit card fees.

Let me say that again so all Americans can hear this. Republicans want to let big credit card companies increase credit card fees in the name of "fiscal discipline and responsibility." Give me a break.

By introducing a bill to block the Biden administration's rule, Republicans are doing the bidding of the big credit card companies and leaving the American people out to dry.

Let me be clear: Democrats will not allow the Republicans' bill to become law.

I yield the floor.

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. **MCCONNELL**. 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 MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

MAYORKAS IMPEACHMENT

Mr. **MCCONNELL**. Mr. President, this afternoon, the Senate will be called, for just the 19th time in our history, to rule on the impeachment of a senior official of our government. It is a responsibility to be taken seriously. As I said the last time the Senate convened as a Court of Impeachment, it is a power that Congress must not exercise frivolously.

Today, the Senate will hear House managers charge Secretary Mayorkas with serious dereliction of duty—with a systematic refusal to enforce our Nation's immigration laws and with lying to Congress about the extent of the border crisis that unfolded on the Biden administration's watch.

The facts of the crisis are well-known. Since January of 2021, CBP has

recorded more than 7.5 illegal crossings at our southern border, while observers estimate over 1.5 million known "got-aways." And last December saw the highest daily and monthly numbers ever recorded.

In the 2 months since the House impeached Secretary Mayorkas, the border crisis has only continued, with excruciating consequences for innocent Americans.

On February 22, an illegal alien was arrested in Virginia for sexually assaulting a minor. The very next day, another illegal alien from Venezuela was arrested for the murder of Laken Riley, a young college student in Georgia. And the same month, yet another was charged with first- and second-degree murder for the shooting of a 2-year-old in Maryland.

For the Americans living right near the border, things are not improving. In February, one man working in Arizona recounted watching cartel guides lead over 170 people from around the world through one such opening in a matter of hours.

The House managers will make the case for Secretary Mayorkas's role in neglecting and exacerbating that crisis. As befits such a solemn and rare responsibility as convening a Court of Impeachment, I intend to give these charges my full and undivided attention.

Of course, that would require that Senators actually get the opportunity to hold a trial. This is exactly what history and precedent dictate. Never before has the Senate agreed to a motion to table Articles of Impeachment—not for an officer of either party, not once.

Instead, every single time that we have been called upon to render judgment, we have done so. We have convened a trial in accordance with rule XI of the Impeachment Rules agreed to in 1935. We have appointed a trial committee to dig into the facts and make a recommendation.

It would be beneath the Senate's dignity to shrug off our clear responsibility and fail to give the charges we will hear today the thorough consideration they deserve. I will strenuously oppose any effort to table the Articles of Impeachment and avoid looking the Biden administration's border crisis squarely in the face.

NATIONAL SECURITY SUPPLEMENTAL

Mr. President, now on an entirely different matter, 2 months ago, the Senate passed a national security supplemental that reflected the clear links between the challenges we face. That was by design. America's adversaries, from Beijing to Pyongyang and Moscow to Tehran, are actually all working together. They are reinforcing one another's efforts to sap our resolve, shatter our influence, and remake the rules of the road on their own terms. Anyone pretending that we can address these challenges individually, at our