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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, known to us in countless ways, thank You for answering when we call. Lord, we turn to You that, in Your light, we might see light illuminate the minds of our lawmakers regarding how to solve the difficult problems of our Nation and world.

Lord, enable our Senators to experience the joy and strength that You alone can give. Help them to remember that You have set apart the godly for Yourself, surrounding them with the shield of Your favor.

Lord, give us all the wisdom to trust You with our tomorrows. We pray in Your strong 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 7, 2024.

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 Sen-

ator 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 consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Donna Ann Welton, of New York, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

PROTESTS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday, the world marked Holocaust Remembrance Day, an annual reminder of mankind's horrific capacity for evil and our obligation to combat hatred toward Jews wherever it emerges.

Today, of course, anti-Semitic hate is welling up amid the lawless radicalism across our own country—in the physical blockades barring Jewish students

from getting to class; in the ransacking and occupation of campus buildings; and, of course, in the torrents of noxious slurs against the Jewish people and the Jewish State.

Just last week, President Biden finally weighed in with a belated banality: "order must prevail." Unfortunately—and unsurprisingly—this glancing finger wag hasn't exactly quelled the campus chaos or steeled the spines of college administrators. The President's words haven't yet prompted local leaders in Washington to send the Metropolitan Police Department to clear out the anti-Semitic vandalism convention that continues to unfold half a mile from the White House on the campus of George Washington University.

In the absence of firm, responsible campus leadership, radicals at UCLA have once again managed to bring collective punishment on their fellow students with the cancellation of in-person classes. Harvard and MIT are still struggling to muster the resolve to clear out and punish the squatters on their campuses. And at the epicenter of the chaos, Columbia has canceled its main graduation ceremony.

So there is only one way to interpret this outcome. It is an undeserved victory for the unhinged radicals who have been disrupting campus life and forcing Jewish students to steer clear for weeks.

University administrators caving to the mob only validates the performative tactics of wannabe revolutionaries—like the scofflaws whose first order of business upon breaking into a campus building last week was to post Maoist revolutionary slogans and make a list of their comrades with vegan dietary restrictions and the doctoral student specializing in "theories of the imagination and poetry as interpreted through a Marxian lens" who became their spokesperson and demanded that Columbia administrators provide violent trespassers with food

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



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and water so they could persist in lawlessness.

What deluded nonsense. It is important to acknowledge that Columbia isn't even the only hotbed of retrograde 20th century communism on the island of Manhattan. While the meatless Marxists take over Morningside Heights, a brand of Juche jihadism has emerged further downtown at NYU.

You heard that right. A teach-in quite literally praised North Korea's solidarity with the Palestinian people, specifically enumerating the ways the Kim regime has helped train and equip Palestinian terrorist groups who wage war on Israel. Take heart, comrades. Brutal totalitarians and savage terrorists have actually got and found a common cause.

The glorification of leftist revolutionaries at supposedly elite universities is actually not new. Berets emulating Che Guevara were on campus long before jihadist garb that signals solidarity with Hamas.

And as adled as any generation's radical cries may be, the American people have usually been able to trust that eventually the would-be Maoists would submit to the lessons of history, read about how the Cultural Revolution really ends, and become contributing members of society. But today, the guardrails against professional radicalism have grown vanishingly thin. Unlike in the 1960s, today's Red Guards actually have academic tenure. And more than ever before, the brain trust of the American universities sees the indoctrination of students in postmodern leftism not just as a privilege of tenure but an obligation.

From the comfortable, endowed sinecures where they count on foundation grants, these professors of the "vanguard elite" urge their impressionable students to engage in unlawful acts with potentially lasting repercussions—cannon fodder for the cause.

Meanwhile, to an alarming degree, campus administrators have abdicated their responsibility to treat their charges as adults capable of bearing the consequences of their actions, and in the face of a mob that increasingly represents their political base, elected leaders have shrunk from the duty to ensure that the order President Biden referenced last week actually prevails.

To borrow from one of the campus radicals' favorite fonts of wisdom, Karl Marx famously wrote that if history repeats itself, it comes "the first time as tragedy, [and] the second time as farce."

It is hard not to worry that, in 2024, it has arrived as a bit of both.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Mr. President, now on a related matter, last week brought news that some of the biggest names backing President Biden's reelection campaign are also behind major leftwing groups stoking campus chaos—from training on occupation and resistance tactics to outright Hamas apologists. And as the Democratic Party's biggest donors

fund campus radicals' anti-Semitic sabbatical, the Biden administration is still trying to cover the cost of tuition for the classes they are missing.

The administration's student loan socialism scheme would force working families around the country to cover college degrees for the Nation's highest earners. It is hard to conceive of a more patently regressive social policy. By one analysis, the highest earning fifth of American households hold nearly a third of all student debt. By contrast—and this is particularly interesting—the lowest earning fifth hold only 8 percent of student debt. Families across the country are still struggling with sky-high prices and soaring interest rates. It is harder to fill the refrigerator and gas tank, tougher to buy a house or a car, but President Biden thinks that this is the time to send billions of working Americans' tax dollars to the college graduates who already have a leg up in earning potential.

Now, let's remember, the Supreme Court already declared this policy illegal. Just last summer, the Supreme Court ruled that the executive branch lacked the statutory authority to implement blanket student loan forgiveness. Well, like many of the chaos agents who have taken over college campuses in recent weeks, President Biden seems to have no problem disregarding the law.

We are talking about a scheme that has already spent hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars. And the proposed rule administration bureaucrats placed in the Federal Register would cost nearly \$150 billion more and has already drawn over 28,000 comments from the public.

Here is what some of these frustrated taxpayers have to say:

There is no such thing as free money. As a homeowner, we are not getting mortgage forgiveness.

This would be a burden on taxpayers. This would be unfair to people that have already paid student debt, or those who have paid down significantly student debt.

And one particularly frustrated taxpayer said this:

I acquired \$30,000 in student loan debt, which required hard decisions and accountability. I work[ed] the entire time I was in college, both during the school year, summers and breaks. It meant instead of buying an expensive car or getting a nice apartment I lived within my means and paid my student loan payment every month that I agreed to make.

The American people know the President is handing them a raw deal. Apparently, either he isn't listening or he doesn't care.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The 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.

ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, in 1945, Muriel Knox Doherty, of the Royal Australian Air Force Nursing Service, was assigned to the Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp to provide relief for Holocaust survivors. She preserved her experience in hundreds of letters, which contained passages like this:

On arrival at Belsen, [the prisoners] lay in the open and were beaten with iron bars. [The] witness' friend was in bed 3 days as a result of these beatings.

"The only reason for this treatment," she wrote, "was that they were Jews."

"The only reason for this treatment is that they were Jews."

Yesterday, Jews around the world observed Yom HaShoah—the Holocaust Remembrance Day. I spoke at Temple Emanu-El in New York about it.

This year, Yom HaShoah comes at an especially painful moment for the Jewish people. Seven months ago, over 1,200 innocents were brutally murdered by Hamas in the worst attack against Jews since the Holocaust. In the months since, anti-Semitism has swept our country and the world in ways not seen in generations. Sadly, we see the poison of anti-Semitism amidst some of the protests happening on college campuses today.

This unprecedented rise in anti-Semitism is why I came to the Senate floor last November—to speak at length about the fear that has been growing in the hearts and minds of every Jewish person since October 7. I believe we all have an obligation to call out anti-Semitism wherever we see it arise, be it from the right or from the left.

As I forcefully said in my speech, if anti-Semitism is not repudiated, if it isn't forcefully called out whenever and wherever it arises, it will metastasize into something worse. That is what I wanted to emphasize in my speech.

So, today, I applaud President Biden for taking another strong, decisive step to fight anti-Semitism at the Federal level, with new steps aimed at fighting anti-Semitism in our communities, online, and toward Jewish students.

Among other actions, the President has directed the Department of Education to issue new guidance for college campuses to protect Jewish students and students of all backgrounds so that our universities remain safe havens to learn and grow.

When a Jewish student cannot walk through their quad without fear of harassment or ridicule or something far worse, we have a duty to respond. When swastikas are spray-painted on Jewish gravestones and bomb threats are made against synagogues, it demands action from the government to keep people safe. If "never again" is to have any meaning, all of us must own the duty of combating anti-Semitism together at every level of society.

Here in the Senate, I will continue to work with Democrats and Republicans