

gaveling out for another 6-week recess, leading up to the November 5 election. It is pretty obvious that the majority leader has given us very little time in which to do our jobs, and he has wasted a lot of that time on unnecessary, partisan votes. As a result, some of our most important work remains undone.

First is the National Defense Authorization Act. I believe it is 63 years in a row that the Senate has passed a National Defense Authorization Act, but that is in jeopardy this year because of the little time left in which to consider it when we come back in September. That bill was completed on a bipartisan basis by the Senate Armed Services Committee more than 3 weeks ago, plenty of time for the majority leader to bring that bill to the floor and for us to work through our normal process.

Thankfully, that product was the work of extensive bipartisan participation, including open hearings, mark-ups, and hundreds of amendments at the committee level.

I want to commend both Ranking Member WICKER, from Mississippi, and the chairman, JACK REED, and our colleagues on the committee for the work that went into this important bill, which will go a long way to support our military families and modernize America's defense.

It is pretty obvious that the majority leader could have filed cloture on this bill 3 weeks ago, allowing plenty of time for us to take up and pass the National Defense Authorization Act before the August recess.

Given the great power competition and the fact that conflicts are unfolding not only in Europe but in the Middle East and in the Indo-Pacific, the Defense Authorization Act should be our top priority. This is the most dangerous geopolitical environment that we have seen since World War II. It is regrettable that the majority leader didn't see this as a priority, and so we won't have an opportunity to vote on it until September at the earliest, if then.

As I indicated, during the month of September, we are only scheduled to be in session for 12 days, and there are other critical needs for us to address, the most basic of which is just simply funding the government before the end of the fiscal year, the end of September.

Despite the Senate's truncated schedule, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Senator MURRAY, and the ranking member, Senator COLLINS, have made serious progress on the appropriations bills.

As of this morning, the Appropriations Committee, on a bipartisan basis, has approved 11 of the 12 annual spending bills. They have put us in a strong position to start voting on individual appropriations bills in September, and I hope the majority leader will allow us to do that, but with only 12 days left between now and November 5, even that is in some jeopardy.

Unfortunately, the Senate's to-do list doesn't stop there. In addition to the

Defense authorization bill and 12 appropriations bills, we need to pass a farm bill by September 30. This legislation is critical to America's supply of food and fiber as well as to the hard-working men and women who grow and produce it.

Ranking Member BOOZMAN from Arkansas has been a tireless champion for America's agricultural sector, and he has been traveling across the country to hear from America's farmers, ranchers, and producers. He and our colleagues on the Agriculture Committee are committed to passing a strong farm bill as soon as possible, but the majority leader hasn't given us any time to consider that legislation before the general election on November 5—certainly, after the current bill expires at the end of September.

So my point is—and I say this with all respect—the leader has not given us a lot of time to get our work done. And when he has scheduled things, like the vote on the tax bill, he does it the day before we break for a 5-week recess, with no real likelihood that we would ever be able to move this legislation through the normal process, with debate and amendments, in the careful way that our constituents deserve.

The Defense authorization bill, the 12 funding bills, and the farm bill should all be signed into law by the end of September, but it is, unfortunately, the case that Senator SCHUMER has only given us 12 days additional during which to act.

Strengthening America's defense in an increasingly dangerous world, funding the Federal Government, and safeguarding our food supply—these are the basics of governing, and we are not doing it. That is no way to treat the government's most basic responsibilities, and I hope that, come November, voters will choose a new direction for the Senate.

TRIBUTE TO EMILY COSTANZO

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I want to say a word about one of my staff members, Emily Costanzo, who has served in my office for the last 5½ years.

Emily is what we call a speechwriter. Speechwriters are unique, in my experience, certainly here in the Senate, because most Senators are accustomed to giving a lot of speeches—some of them not very good, some of them occasionally decent. But the fact is, when you give a speech, as I have just done, usually it involves a number of considerations: It involves policy; it involves Senate procedures; it involves a lot of different considerations. Emily has been an invaluable member of my staff for the last 5½ years to help me be as good as I am capable of being in providing me with the support I need in order to represent the 30 million people of Texas here in the U.S. Senate.

Emily, fortunately, is here in the back of the room.

Emily, let me just say you will be missed, especially your positive, cheer-

ful countenance, and certainly the great work that you have been able to do all of these years. I wish you and Jake the very best in this next chapter of your lives.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SANDERS). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, Calendar No. 716, Michael Louis Sulmeyer, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael Louis Sulmeyer, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense (New Position).

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Sulmeyer nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 12 noon tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 5:03 p.m., adjourned until Friday, August 2, 2024, at 12 noon.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate August 1, 2024:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DAVID O. BARNETT, JR., OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DOROTHY CAMILLE SHEA, OF NORTH CAROLINA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO

THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY AND THE DEPUTY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

DAFNA HOCHMAN RAND, OF MARYLAND, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND LABOR.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MICHAEL LOUIS SULMEYER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14 U.S.C., SECTION 2121(D):

To be rear admiral

JOHN C. VANN

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

SUBJECT TO QUALIFICATIONS PROVIDED BY LAW, THE FOLLOWING FOR DIRECTOR, NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION COMMISSIONED OFFICER CORPS AND OFFICE OF MARINE AND AVIATION OPERATIONS.

To be rear admiral

CHAD M. CARY

IN THE COAST GUARD

COAST GUARD NOMINATION OF ANDREW D. RAY, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH NICHOLAS G. DERENZO AND ENDING WITH ISAAC YATES, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 23, 2024.

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DOUGLAS D. GRAUL AND ENDING WITH BENEDICT S. GULLO, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MAY 23, 2024.

COAST GUARD NOMINATION OF PHILIP J. GRANATI, TO BE CAPTAIN.

COAST GUARD NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH DEREK A. WILLIAMS AND ENDING WITH TRENT J. LAMUN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 20, 2024.