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Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN W. HICKENLOOPER, a Senator from the State of Colorado.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, You have given us the great hope that Your Kingdom shall come on Earth. Use us to make this dream a reality. Help us to trust You without wavering, fervently believing that our times are in Your hands.

Today, empower our lawmakers to be aware of Your unfailing love and to live according to Your truth. May they examine the motives of their hearts as You lead them along the path that will glorify You. Empower them to live with such integrity that they will always stand on solid ground.

Lord, ransom them from all troubles as they put their trust in You.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 13, 2024.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable JOHN W. HICKENLOOPER, a Senator from the State of Colorado, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. HICKENLOOPER 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jonathan E. Hawley, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I have just been told that Senator JOHN THUNE will be the next Republican leader in the Senate. I congratulate Senator THUNE on being chosen by his colleagues as the next Republican leader. I look forward to working with him. We have done many bipartisan things here in the Senate together, and I hope that continues. As you know, I strongly

believe that bipartisanship is the best and often the only way to get things done in the Senate.

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Mr. President, now on what happened at the University of Rochester, yesterday, students, faculty, staff, and other community members of the University of Rochester awoke to a sickening and disturbing incident on their campus. According to university officials, hundreds of "Wanted" posters were found glued across campus late Sunday night. The posters seemed to have disproportionately singled out Jewish faculty and Jewish staff in what appears to be an attempt to intimidate these individuals. The U of R administration has called out these actions as anti-Semitic and promised a prompt and thorough investigation to identify wrongdoers. Those wrongdoers should be held accountable.

Investigators are still getting to the bottom of what happened, but what we already know is disturbing enough. It is rank intimidation and has no place in a university community or anywhere else. I condemn the loathsome actions of those who put up these wanted posters. Any attempt—any attempt—to threaten to target someone simply because of their Jewish identity is anti-Semitism, plain and simple. And those who committed these acts of vandalism on campus have done nothing—nothing—to convince others that their cause is just.

Universities are supposed to be places where people can learn and grow and argue in peace and security. No staff, no student, no faculty member should ever have to worry about looking over their shoulder walking through campus. I condemn these cheap anti-Semitic bully tactics and urge all of us to work together so we may root out anti-Semitism wherever it rears its ugly head.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. President, on Senate business, the Senate comes back to session with

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



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a lot of work left to do before the end of the year.

First, we need to make sure the government is funded beyond the December 20 deadline; otherwise, we will have a shutdown right before Christmas, something no sane person could possibly want for the country. As always, it will take Republican cooperation to fund the government and avoid a Christmastime shutdown. I am hopeful that we will get it done smoothly, just as we did back in September.

Second, we also need to pass the National Defense Authorization Act to keep America safe, to take care of our troops, and to hold the line against America's adversaries around the world. The NDAA has passed through the Senate for over six decades without fail. This year should not be an exception, provided that our Republican colleagues work with us in good faith to finish the job.

Meanwhile, there are other priorities we also want to make progress on before the end of the year, which will only happen if we have bipartisan support.

One of the issues at the top of the list is disaster aid funding to replenish funding to vital programs that support communities in times of disaster. We have all seen destruction in States like Tennessee, North Carolina, and Florida battered by recent hurricanes. But there are many more communities like these that have suffered in the northeast, the south, the west coast, Hawaii, and everywhere in between. I hope we can work together to make sure no community is left behind.

We also need to continue making progress on the farm bill to ensure we don't go over the so-called dairy cliff, which looms at the end of December. Again, our Republican colleagues have to decide if they want to work with us to get it done. Democrats are ready to work.

Finally, the Senate will continue fulfilling our constitutional obligation to consider and confirm President Biden's highly qualified judicial nominees and nominees to other Agencies.

Today, the Senate will vote on the nomination of Jonathan Hawley to be U.S. district judge for the Central District of Illinois. I have also filed cloture on two more district court judges and on Embry Kidd to serve as circuit court judge for the Eleventh Circuit. We will vote on these and other nominees in the coming days. We will work to get as many confirmed as possible.

So the bottom line is that we have a lot of work ahead. I thank my colleagues for their cooperation.

DEMOCRATIC SENATORS-ELECT

Mr. President, for the new Senators on our side of the aisle, yesterday, I had the wonderful opportunity to formally welcome all the new Democratic Senators-elect for the first time since their victories. I have gotten to know each and every one of them individually over the course of the campaign, but it was truly special to see them all

together here in the Senate, not as candidates but as leaders ready to get to work. There are two things that make this incoming class of Senators special. They are not only of extremely high caliber, each one of them, but many will be making history.

First, I am thrilled to welcome Senator-elect Angela Alsobrooks. Senator-elect Alsobrooks will become the first African-American Senator ever from the State of Maryland. She is the kind of leader people in Maryland deserve—born in Maryland, educated in Maryland, and spent her entire career serving the people of her State.

Our new Member from Delaware, Senator LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER, will also become the first woman and first person of color ever to represent the first State in this Chamber. She has had a fabulous career in the House and is going to do really fine things for her State and for her country here in the Senate.

Senator-elect RUBEN GALLEG0, of Arizona, will become Arizona's first-ever Latino Senator in a State where nearly one-third of the population is Hispanic. He is the son of a Colombian mother and Mexican father raised in a single-parent household. He joined the Marines and served in Iraq.

Like the other Members of the House who are coming here, all five have done great jobs in the House and certainly deserved elevation. He was a fabulous Member of the House and became a leader on so many different issues.

Senator-elect ANDY KIM, of New Jersey, will become the first Korean American to serve in the Senate. His story is the embodiment of the American dream. The son of Korean immigrants, a product of New Jersey public schools, an outstanding public servant in the House, and now a U.S. Senator-elect. Like his colleagues, he had a fabulous career in the House and is soon to embark on a fabulous career in the Senate.

And we also welcome Senator ELISSA SLOTKIN, of Michigan, a third-generation Michigander, a leading voice in our national security. She served in the CIA under George Bush—truly a bipartisan credential—and in the Department of Defense. And in the House, she was a real leader on foreign policy and defense and intelligence issues. She is going to follow in the footsteps of our friend DEBBIE STABENOW and do a great job.

Finally, I would like to welcome Senator-elect ADAM SCHIFF of California, a longtime leader among House Democrats. One of the leaders in the House, he established himself as a leader shortly after he got there. Former chair of the House Intelligence Committee and just an amazing and articulate voice on so many different issues. He will be taking the place of Senator LAPHONZA BUTLER.

Finally, let me say this. This new generation of Senators on our side is the most diverse slate of candidates ever. Senators-elect BLUNT ROCHESTER

and Alsobrooks mark the first time in the Senate's history two Black women will hold office at the same time. Senator KIM is the first Korean American to serve. Senator GALLEG0 expands the number of Hispanic representatives in our Senate. So we set a record. Not only are there five great House Members and then a great executive of Prince George's County, but of our six Senators-elect, a majority are people of color—qualified, hard-working people of color. That is a great thing for the Senate, and it is a great thing for the United States of America.

I congratulate each of them and say we can't wait to get to work with you. I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks before the rollcall vote starts.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am going to be brief because I know Members will be coming in here very shortly for the vote.

It has been an honor to serve as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee for 4 years. We had a big job. The biggest assignment was filling judicial vacancies. As of this moment, we filled 214 Federal vacancies at the court level through activities of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the floor.

It has been a burden, a challenge, but I want to really commend all of the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee on a bipartisan basis for working together to fill these vacancies. Over 90 percent of these vacancies were filled on a bipartisan basis. That is saying something, isn't it, in today's America, that we were able to find common ground. We didn't agree even on all of those nominees, but, certainly, there was an effort to reach across the aisle time and time again. When you take a look at the situation in the Senate during this period of time, it was a 50-50 split in the membership of the U.S. Senate for 2 of these years and a very small majority in the other 2 years, yet we were able to get this job done.

This Senate Judiciary Committee, which I have served on for more than two decades, has given me the opportunity to review over 1,000 nominees for the Federal bench. President Biden's nominees represent some of the best I have ever seen and, certainly, achieved great levels of sophistication when it came to their background—professional and personal.

For each judicial nominee, we require that the American Bar Association do an interview of their peers in the community and find out if there is anything that we should know about them before they go up for these lifetime appointments. I am happy to report that every single nominee from