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Senate

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The 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 assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Lori Chavez-DeRemer, of Oregon, to be Secretary of Labor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUDD). The Senator from Iowa.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, for my colleagues who are protectionists, I think that when it comes to the issue of trade, we need less of Peter Navarro and more of ADAM SMITH. I think the certainty that comes with trade policy will benefit our economy the most.

Hopefully, we don't have a government shutdown this week. I want my colleagues to remember that it costs money to shut down the government. It costs money to open the government up. There is even some money being wasted this week as bureaucrats plan for a possible shutdown.

The government is supposed to be a service to the American people, and you can't serve the American people if government is not functioning.

BOSNIA

Mr. President, I would also like to address my colleagues to remind them of the genocide of the 1990s in the Western Balkan region of the world and of the Dayton Peace Accords of 1995 that brought an end to that genocide.

For years, the leader of the Serb entity within the country of Bosnia, Mr. Dodik, has been threatening to have the Serb part secede. Remember that there was a war and a genocide in the 1990s because of people like Mr. Dodik acting like he is now. He has a predecessor serving life in prison for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

Many Bosnians who suffered from that terrible ethnic violence came to

Iowa for protection and have enriched our State and Nation. Many of these Iowans have friends and family still in Bosnia. I spoke to some of them last Friday about an escalating crisis with frightening echoes of the great violence of the 1990s.

Mr. Dodik was sentenced by a Bosnian court for unconstitutional actions that reject the authority of Bosnian state institutions. So rather than stop, he chose to double down.

The Bosnian Serb Assembly has now passed and implemented laws prohibiting the functioning of Bosnian state-level security and judicial institutions in that area. Provincial institutions there have been ordered to use force to stop and prevent the lawful actions and operation of the Bosnian state.

Bosnians who are loyal to their country or who these ethnic separatists do not consider Serbs, those people are at risk, including family members of my fellow Iowans. This concerns me greatly.

Now, the United States, through Secretary Rubio, is taking some action, making it clear that it is also of great concern to the Trump administration. Western Balkan stability has been a U.S. priority across administrations—Clinton, Bush, Obama, Trump 1, Biden, and now Trump again.

I am following this situation very closely. America is also watching who in the region is supporting stability and who is backing the return to ethnic separatism and the possible genocide that could once again happen. Remember, it didn't end well for those same people in the 1990s.

I will work with the Trump administration to make sure that we keep up the pressure on Mr. Dodik and his allies to stop and respect the Dayton Peace Accords that ended this violence in 1995.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, You are the "Ancient of Days," yet the ever-new God. Thank You for Your mercy and faithfulness. As the dew refreshes the Earth, so You restore us each day to newness of life.

Sustain our lawmakers in their work. Give them guidance and inspiration to focus on issues that truly matter. Provide them the wisdom to meet needs, solve problems, and lift burdens. May the talents possessed by the Members of this legislative body help in the awesome task of making our Nation and world better.

Lord, to those who are given the responsibility of seeking the ways of peace, empower them with creative stamina equal to this difficult task.

We pray in Your amazing Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

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



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The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

FILIBUSTER

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, last week the Washington Examiner published an article highlighting Democrats' third—third—filibuster of this new Congress. That is right. You heard it—third.

The party that mere months ago literally was gleefully making plans to destroy the filibuster is now using the filibuster left and right. But as we know, for Democrats, it is, "One rule for me, another for thee." As the Washington Examiner piece made clear, some Democrats are even embracing their hypocrisy.

"You use the rules that exist," one Democrat said. "I might advocate for a higher speed limit, but I still observe the speed limit until it is changed."

Well, OK, but are Democrats still crusading to abolish the filibuster while Republicans are in charge? The answer is, of course, not because abolishing the filibuster isn't about principle for Democrats; it is about political advantage. So Democrats will unashamedly support different rules depending on who is in charge.

Now, I could spend my whole time today talking about Democrats' rank hypocrisy when it comes to the filibuster, but I would also like to talk about the content of the bills that they filibustered and what that says about the Democratic Party.

In the few short weeks of this new Congress, Democrats filibustered three bills: the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act; the Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act, otherwise known as the ICC sanctions bill; and the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act.

The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act was a simple bill. It simply stated that a baby born alive after an attempted abortion must be given the same protection and medical care that any other newborn baby would be given. That is it. You would assume such a bill would be entirely uncontroversial.

Democrats may not believe in protecting unborn human beings, but surely—surely—they still believe in protecting born human beings. But as it turns out, protecting born human beings, at least when they are born alive after an abortion, is not on the Democrats' priority list.

In fact, every Democrat in the Senate—every Democrat, without exception—voted against this bill. And I am afraid the sad truth is, the Democrats are so deeply concerned with preserving the supposed right to kill unborn babies that they couldn't bring themselves to protect born babies for fear that it would eventually lead to

recognizing the humanity of the unborn.

All I can say is that a party that was so committed to killing unborn babies that it can't vote to protect born babies is nothing short of morally bankrupt. So that was the first bill the Democrats filibustered.

The next was the ICC sanctions bill, and that was another straightforward bill. It would have sanctioned foreign individuals who are involved in International Criminal Court efforts to investigate, arrest, or prosecute U.S. citizens or citizens of U.S. allies that are not party to the ICC or the International Criminal Court.

The bill was a response to the ICC's decision to pursue warrants for Israeli officials, and it was also designed to protect Americans and American soldiers, in particular, who had been targeted by the ICC in the past. But once again, Senate Democrats—with one lone exception—found themselves incapable of taking a stand.

Now, I am not sure if it was anti-Israel animus or if they were afraid of antagonizing the anti-Israel wing of their party or if they are simply too beholden to Big Tech, which lodged some tenuous concerns about this legislation, but for whatever reason, Democrats filibustered the bill.

In doing so, they not only failed to rebuke the ICC for its illegitimate targeting of Israeli leaders, but they failed to protect U.S. citizens.

The third bill the Democrats filibustered—and filibustered just this past week, I might add—was the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act. This legislation was designed to restore the original intent of title IX, which is giving women equal opportunities in education by ensuring that women and girls, and women and girls only, are permitted to play in women's sports at federally funded educational institutions.

The bill, of course, is a response to the growing problem of women's sports being invaded by biological males.

I want to quote for you something from August 2024. This is a United Nations report from just last August, a report from the United Nations on violence against women and girls.

The replacement of the female sports category with a mixed-sex category has resulted in an increasing number of female athletes losing opportunities, including medals, when competing against males. According to information received by March 30, 2024, over 600 female athletes in more than 400 competitions have lost more than 890 medals in 29 different sports.

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That is a quote out of a United Nations report on violence against women and girls in August of last year.

It is not even remotely fair. Girls should not be having to compete in races that are stacked against them. Women deserve their own athletic opportunities—opportunities that are not taken away from them by biological

males who have their own spaces in which to compete. But try explaining that to Democrats. Democrats like to portray themselves as leading the charge on women's issues, but not one Democrat—not one—could bring himself or herself to vote in support of women and girls. Biological males, not women, got Democrats' support last Monday.

Well, apparently, Democrats' commitment to equal opportunity for women only runs so deep and quickly falls by the wayside when the left demands adherence to some new ideology.

The outcome of the 2024 Presidential election was partially a rebuke of far-left dogmas and ideologies. Apparently, Democrats have learned nothing from that electoral rebuke.

Today, the supposed party of the little guy, the underdog, the disadvantaged, has become a party willing to sacrifice born human beings to abortion extremism and equality for women and girls on the altar of transgender ideology. I have to say it is no wonder the American people rejected them in November of 2024.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, last week, I came to the floor to debunk some of our Democratic colleagues' myths, disinformation, mistaken information about the work of Elon Musk and the Department of Government Efficiency.

Ronald Reagan liked to say that facts are stubborn things. It is important to talk about the facts because, hopefully, even in Washington, DC, we can agree on the basic facts. We may have some different interpretations, different policy preferences; but facts are facts.

Today, I want to do the same thing about the Republican efforts to extend the upcoming expiration of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, or what is sometimes called the Trump tax cuts, through the budget reconciliation process.

Now, I don't blame the American people or anybody else, when listening to all the process we talk about, and just their eyes glazing over and just tuning us out. But the truth is, if we don't extend the expiring provisions of this tax bill that we passed back in 2017, during President Trump's first term, a vast majority of the American people will experience a tax increase. And that, of course, is on top of a 40-year high inflation during the Biden administration.