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Senate

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 James Bishop, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The Senator from Iowa.

BLOOD CLOT AWARENESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last night the Senate passed my bipartisan resolution to bring attention to a very important issue but one that isn't discussed often enough: It is the deaths by blood clot.

We call March Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism Awareness Month. So that is a fancy name for blood clots, and last night the Senate took this action. It took that action because we want to bring attention to the fact that this health problem affects about 900,000 Americans and contributes to \$10 billion in medical costs annually.

While blood clots can be life-threatening, they are preventable and treatable. Sadly, they are among the leading causes of preventable hospital deaths. Cancer patients, pregnant women, older Americans, and patients having surgery all face increased risks of blood clotting.

So I have a constituent who is very active in this movement, and I have met with him over the last 3 or 4 years that he has led a national effort to bring attention to the problems of blood clotting.

I am thankful that Des Moines, IA, resident Todd Robertson is working on this issue and was in my office yesterday to discuss what can be done, even beyond passing this resolution naming a whole month for this attention. He

has the title of National Blood Clot Alliance patient liaison.

I want to give thanks to Todd in a big way about his passion because we are all more aware of the risk of blood clots and the necessary steps to prevent blood clotting and preserving our Nation's health with the people that have this problem.

So I would encourage all Americans to visit stopthecлот.org so every American can understand possible risks with clotting and how you can prevent that in your own life.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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.

AGRICULTURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, there is not much in our lives that doesn't depend in some way on agriculture: the food on our table, the gas in our car, the cotton in our shirts. Agriculture is the lifeblood of our country. I am grateful for the men and women who rise before the dawn for a hard day's work on farms and ranches across America.

Agriculture is a difficult way of life. It is filled with uncertainty. Storms, drought, or an early freeze can wipe out entire crops or herds, sometimes in an instant. There is market volatility, processing and transportation challenges, and the list goes on.

The last few years have been especially challenging for America's farmers and ranchers. They face declining commodity prices, higher input costs, and higher interest rates, not to mention the natural disasters that have struck many parts of the country.

The Senate met at 10 a.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, use the hearts and hands of our lawmakers to lift burdens and liberate lives. Give our Senators the wisdom that will lead them to know what must be done to make a better nation and world. Open their ears to hear the cries of those on life's margins. Infuse them with courage to act by bringing relief and release to those who are bruised by life's storms.

Lord, whisper words of counsel to our leaders, particularly during their moments of important decision making. And, Lord, help them to do the very best they can each day, leaving the results to You.

We pray in Your sovereign 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 PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MULLIN). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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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Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall recently told the Agriculture Committee that “in 2025, farmers will plant one of the most expensive crops ever.” Many commodity producers are bracing for the prospect of serious financial losses this year.

These challenges are real. That is why last December Congress approved relief funding for agriculture producers hit by economic headwinds as well as those affected by natural disasters. Secretary Rollins committed to getting these funds out the door quickly during her confirmation hearing. Last week, USDA announced that farmers could now apply for direct payments from the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program through their local farm service agency, and additional assistance for those affected by natural disasters will be available soon.

Programs like the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program are designed to help farmers weather the current storm, but let’s be clear: They are only temporary measures, and they are no substitute for an updated farm bill that provides the resources that farmers and ranchers need to face current conditions.

When I became majority leader, I made it clear that a full and updated farm bill would be a priority for the new Republican majority. Secretary Rollins has been clear that this is a priority for the Trump administration as well. I appreciate the work that the Agriculture Committee is doing under Chairman BOOZMAN to respond to the needs of farmers and ranchers.

During my time in Congress, I have had a role in crafting four farm bills. This will be my fifth. It is a difficult task at any time, and it is harder when the situation is as dire as it is today. But Senate Republicans remain committed to finishing this important work and delivering a farm bill that ensures farmers and ranchers have the resources they need to face today’s challenges and tomorrow’s as well. I hope that our Democrat colleagues will join us in working productively to deliver this important legislation.

Farmers and ranchers need certainty so they can plan for the future, and providing that certainty is a priority of mine. I have introduced a number of bills that I will work to see incorporated into the farm bill, including the Crop Insurance for Future Farmers Act and the Livestock Disaster Assistance Improvement Act, among others.

Strengthening the farm safety net is an important priority of mine, as is a stable biofuels policy, including year-round access to E15 and timely and meaningful updates to the renewable volume obligations that matter to ethanol producers in America’s heartland.

I continue to advocate for eliminating the death tax once and for all so that no farmer or rancher has to worry about whether the family farm or ranch will be able to stay in the family after they pass.

Life on a farm or ranch isn’t easy, and I am grateful to all of our farmers

and ranchers, including in my home State of South Dakota, for the remarkable job they do day in and day out feeding not only our country but the world.

We have a responsibility to the men and women who work hard every day to deliver food, fuel, and fiber for America and the world. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to deliver the updated legislation that farmers and ranchers need.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant 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 PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

THE ATLANTIC REPORT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the more we learn about the unsecured text exchange of sensitive military operations, the more questions we have about how such an egregious breach of military intelligence occurred in the first place.

What the Atlantic released today is confounding and extremely disturbing to any American who worries about our national security and our safety. It is appalling. Worst of all, it confirms our darkest assumptions about mishandling of sensitive military operations.

The release of this letter was extremely important, but many outstanding questions are not answered by this letter’s release, so we need the full text exchange released by the administration. This morning’s report reinforces the need for immediate answers, transparency, and accountability from President Trump, Secretary Hegseth, and all the others who were involved.

So today I wrote a letter with top Senate Democrats to President Trump and Secretary Hegseth demanding they release the full, unredacted transcript of all texts in their Signal chats.

Many outstanding questions are simply not answered by the Atlantic’s release of the text messages this morning. That is why we need all the texts in the Signal chat. This includes all text exchanges that occurred after Mr. Goldberg removed himself from the group chat. Goldberg released his information, so now the administration must release theirs.

Again, what is so damaging is not just the presence of a reporter—as bad as that was. It is that these sensitive conversations happened on an unsecured channel at all. And that is why we need all the texts.

Director of National Intelligence Gabbard testified that no classified information was shared in the text chain. So what is the administration hiding by not releasing the full and complete

transcript of this text chain? If no classified information was shared, the administration should have no issue with the full transcript being shared with Senators. Again, this is something that cannot be answered by this morning’s report from the Atlantic, as important as Mr. Goldberg’s release was.

We have other questions in our letter too. Americans need to know if any officials in the chat used personal devices that lacked government oversight and cyber security protections. How many of these officials were overseas during these conversations, susceptible to foreign surveillance?

It is alarming—alarming—that Director Gabbard refused to answer repeated questions on whether or not she was using her personal phone. That should be a very easy, “Of course not.” But it didn’t come from her.

Were there any other individuals without any security clearance erroneously included in the text chain? Has the intelligence community fully assessed the damage caused by the potential leak of classified information? Are there any other Cabinet-level officials using unsecured channels like Signal to discuss classified or sensitive information?

And another important question: Are there any other conversations that have taken place like this? These are all questions we have asked in our letter. They are all very important. They all follow on what Mr. Goldberg released.

But as I said, there are so many outstanding questions, even after the release of Mr. Goldberg’s text, that we need answers to. The American people need answers to these questions. What we learned this morning from the Atlantic is appalling, confounding, disturbing; and it reinforces the need to get answers to the questions in our letter. Our letter seeks to get to the bottom of these things to ensure this never, never happens again.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. President, on the economy, yesterday we got another piece of evidence that Donald Trump is failing at the one thing the American people want him to do: keep the economy strong. The Conference Board, one of the most trusted business research organizations, showed consumer confidence has dropped for the fourth straight month. And it didn’t just drop; it is now at the lowest levels since January of 2021, the last time Donald Trump was President.

Donald Trump’s disastrous policies are starting to catch up with him. The economic chickens are coming home to roost, and I fear this is just the beginning.

How can any American have confidence in the economy when Donald Trump and Elon Musk are trying to take away their Social Security and healthcare to cut taxes? How can Americans feel confident when Donald Trump starts, stops, starts, changes his position on tariffs? How can Americans have confidence when the prospect of