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Senate

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of William Long, of Missouri, to be Commissioner of Internal Revenue for the remainder of the term expiring November 12, 2027.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

Mr. GRASSLEY. On June 14, 1775, the Continental Congress passed a resolution creating what we know today as the United States Army. Since its establishment 250 years ago, tens of millions of American patriots have put their lives on the line to protect national security, defend our allies, and fight tyranny and terror from distant shores.

Today, the Army is comprised of roughly 450,000 Active-Duty servicemen. 325.000 National Guardsmen. and 176,000 members of the Reserve, making the U.S. Army the largest branch of the military.

I want to thank our brave men and women in uniform for their sacrifices to our country. Their dedication and their selflessness have made our Nation safer, and the first priority of the Federal Government ought to be our own national security.

Now, we have to think back to President George Washington's first annual address to Congress, where he said: To be prepared for war is one of the most effectual means of preserving the peace in the world.

That includes a nonnegotiable tenet of America's national security, which is "peace through strength."

I have said before and I want to reiterate, we must be prepared at all times

to stamp out aggression because weakness is provocative. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, and a strong and capable military is the best way to do that.

In a few short weeks, we will celebrate Independence Day. I encourage all Americans to recognize and appreciate the freedoms that the Army has defended for 250 years, and I will continue to defend that in the future. And I want to thank President Trump for bringing attention to the 250th birthday of the U.S. Army with the festivities that are going on this weekend in Washington, DC.

I vield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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. HALT ALL LETHAL TRAFFICKING OF FENTANYL ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, later today our friends in the House will be voting on the HALT Fentanyl Act. This is important legislation, and I am glad that it will soon be on its way to the President's desk.

I don't need to tell anybody about the terrible impact of drug overdoses in this country-many of them caused by fentanyl. More Americans die of drug overdoses each year than the number of Americans who died in the entirety of the Vietnam war.

Just 3 years ago, the New England Journal of Medicine estimated we were losing 22 teenagers every week to drug overdoses. Twenty-two teenagers every week, that is like losing an entire high school classroom week after week, and no part of this country has been spared from the influx of fentanyl.

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was

called to order by the President pro

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, of-

Our Father in Heaven, we thank You

for the beautiful diversity in the

human family, for its varied shapes and

sizes, its features and colors, its abili-

ties and talents. Deliver us from the

forces that would destroy our unity by

eliminating our differences. Lord, bless

the Members of this body. Help them in

their debates to distinguish between

substance and semantics, between rhet-

oric and reality. Free them from per-

sonal and partisan preoccupations that

would defeat their aspirations and de-

prive Americans of just and equitable

solutions. Lord, remind our lawmakers

of the wisdom of Romans 8:28, which

states: "In everything God is working

for the good of those who love him who

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

The President pro tempore led the

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the

United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

SHEEHY). Under the previous order, the

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr.

are called according to His purposes.'

tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

fered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING

BUSINESS

leadership time is reserved.

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.



We certainly have seen it in my home State of South Dakota. Enough fentanyl was seized in Sioux Falls, SD, last year to kill 2.5 million people.

Law enforcement reports that the cartels have a presence in our area, and the price of a single pill has dropped from \$40 a few years ago to just \$5 per pill today, largely due to the growing supply.

As bad as this situation is today, it was much worse a few years ago. Before 2018, the fentanyl analogs that were killing so many Americans were generally classified as schedule II substances, meaning regulations were less stringent and violations carried lighter penalties.

And if a particular analog was moved to schedule I, the cartels would simply alter the chemical composition slightly, which meant the new analog wasn't subject to stricter enforcement even though it was no less deadly, but that ended in 2018 when the Trump administration temporarily reclassified all fentanyl analogs under schedule I. And Congress has extended that temporary reclassification several times because it works.

Now it is time to make that permanent. That is where the HALT Fentanyl Act comes in. It will permanently classify fentanyl analogs as what we know them to be: the deadliest kind of drugs. And it will ensure that law enforcement has an important tool to go after the people bringing this poison into our country and peddling it in our communities.

I want to thank Senators CASSIDY and JOHNSON and Chairman GRASSLEY for their leadership on this issue and for getting this bill to this point. I expect today's vote in the House will be broadly bipartisan, as it was in the Senate, and it will soon be signed into law by President Trump—all made possible by their efforts.

The HALT Fentanyl Act has drawn support from law enforcement officers and State attorneys general, and perhaps, most significantly, it has the support of families of numerous Americans who have died from fentanyl overdoses. And I am grateful to those families for their passionate advocacy on this issue and on passage of this bill.

The HALT Fentanyl Act is just one step in the fight against the scourge of fentanyl. In the coming weeks, we will be taking up legislation to address another aspect of the fight, securing our borders. Much of the fentanyl in our country comes across an international border so securing our borders is a key step to preventing shipments of this poison from getting into our country in the first place, and the bill we will be voting on in the coming weeks will make a generational investment in border security, including finishing the border wall and investing in personnel and technology to stop illegal aliens and illegal drugs from getting across.

Too many Americans have lost their lives to drug overdoses. And so many of

those deaths were caused by a single pill containing a lethal dose of fentanyl. Republicans will continue our efforts to end this crisis and prevent illegal drugs from getting into our country and devastating our communities.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I don't often agree with the conservative Wall Street Journal editorial board, but they had it right this morning in their op-ed. They said:

Trump Has No China Trade Strategy.

That is what The Wall Street Journal said

Trump Has No China Trade Strategy.

I agree, Trump has no China trade strategy.

Yesterday, President Trump shouted from the mountaintops that a trade deal with China has been "done," but in reality, nothing of the sort happened.

It is typical Trump. He just makes things up that he thinks please himself and please his rightwing for the moment. In truth, Donald Trump struck a feeble truce and calls it a victory.

In fact, calling this a "truce," calling it "feeble" would be putting it kindly. Donald Trump's actions with China and the handshake yesterday accomplished virtually nothing. China has outfoxed him, and we are just back where we started.

After months of Donald Trump trying to talk tough on China, China today has more leverage over the United States than when Trump started on this venture. Donald Trump's trade war has been a colossal failure and a chaotic mess, with virtually nothing to show for it.

Donald Trump should go back to the drawing board and start over and come up with a plan that actually goes after China, by joining with our allies instead of going to war with them, by having them be allies with us to put pressure on China. And that will make action against China much tougher and more successful, instead of what Trump did, alienating our allies and having them ally with China instead of US.

And Donald Trump should tell Mr. Navarro to get another job. This man has had terrible advice, in Donald Trump's first term and now in Donald Trump's second term.

Two months since America's supposed "Liberation Day," it is clear that Donald Trump's trade strategy is not working, and his main problem is

that he doesn't have a coherent strategy at all. Donald Trump's only move seems to be creating chaos. It is as if he wakes up in the morning and picks a country out of a hat. It just pops into his head, and he runs with it—no strategy, no coherence, no understanding or appreciation of what occurred the day before or might occur the day after. He has turned markets manic, and he has paralyzed business.

Business leaders you talk to, from one end of America to the other—big business, medium-size business, small business—say they are paralyzed. They can't move because they don't know what he is going to do next on tariffs. And given how erratic and inconsistent he has been, who can blame them.

One Kentucky small business owner, a Trump supporter who runs a baseball goods company, described this trade war as "a vacation from hell." To millions of American businesses, that is exactly what has happened. This is a vacation from hell, self-imposed by Donald Trump.

As the summer break begins, and families start traveling around the country, that is exactly what Americans are feeling as well: a vacation from hell, thanks to Donald Trump's tariff policies.

SNAP

Mr. President, on SNAP cuts, after Senate Republicans spent weeks promising they would moderate the extreme policies in Donald Trump's Big Beautiful Bill, last night, they doubled down. The Senate Agriculture Committee released the text of their portion of the bill, and the cuts to food assistance are as cruel, harmful, and as extreme as what came out of the House. They gave it a fresh coat of paint and pretended it is somehow more moderate, when, in reality, it is not.

What happened to all of those Republicans—the Senate Republicans—who said they wanted to moderate the House's SNAP cuts?

The plan they came up with is the House bill's evil twin with a slightly nicer suit. It would still be the most aggressive cuts to food assistance in American history—hundreds of billions in cuts, just as punitive as when it came out of the House.

Eight million Americans—3 million children and seniors—would be in danger of losing benefits. States would still carry the burden in a way they never had to before. And Republican State Governors are going to start complaining; let me assure our Republican colleagues.

Under the Senate plan, a State like North Carolina could be penalized \$438 million in 2028. States have to balance their budgets. A blow like this would be crippling, forcing States to make impossible decisions about who gets to keep their food benefits and who will be forced to go hungry.

I urge Senate Republicans to throw this latest plan away. It is not moderate at all. Again, the Senate's SNAP