

Before the Chair acts on my request, I would like to point out that these requests are routine and done at the beginning of each new Congress.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to agreeing to the unanimous consent requests en bloc?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The unanimous consent agreements agreed to en bloc are as follows:

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that for the duration of the 119th Congress, the Ethics Committee be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that for the duration of the 119th Congress, there be a limitation of 15 minutes each upon any rollcall vote, with the warning signal to be sounded at the midway point, beginning at the 7-1/2 minutes, and when rollcall votes are of 10-minute duration, the warning signal be sounded at the beginning of the last 7-1/2 minutes.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during the 119th Congress, it be in order for the Secretary of the Senate to receive reports at the desk when presented by a Senator at any time during the day of the session of the Senate.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the majority and minority leaders may daily have up to 10 minutes each on each calendar day following the prayer and disposition of the reading of, or the approval of, the Journal.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXVIII, conference reports and statements accompanying them not be printed as Senate reports when such conference reports and statements have been printed as a House report unless specific request is made in the Senate in each instance to have such a report printed.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations be authorized during the 119th Congress to file reports during the adjournments or recesses of the Senate on appropriations bills, including joint resolutions, together with any accompanying notices of motions to suspend rule XVI, pursuant to rule V, for the purpose of offering certain amendments to such bills or joint resolutions, which proposed amendments shall be printed.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that for the duration of the 119th Congress, the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to make technical and clerical corrections in the engrossments of all Senate-passed bills and joint resolutions, Senate amendments to House bills and resolutions, Senate amendments to House amendments to Senate bills and resolutions, and Senate amendments to House amendments to Senate amendments to House bills or resolutions.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, for the duration of the 119th Congress, when the Senate is in recess or adjournment the Secretary of the Senate is authorized to receive messages from the President of the United States, and—with the exception of House bills, joint resolutions and concurrent resolutions—messages from the House of Representatives; and that they be appropriately referred; and that the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the Acting President pro tempore be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills and joint resolutions.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, for the duration of the 119th Congress, Senators be allowed to leave at the desk with the Journal clerk the names of two staff members who will be granted the privilege of the floor during the consideration of

the specific matter noted, and that the Sergeant at Arms be instructed to rotate staff members as space allows.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, for the duration of the 119th Congress, it be in order to refer treaties and nominations on the day when they are received from the President, even when the Senate has no executive session that day.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, for the duration of the 119th Congress, Senators may be allowed to bring to the desk bills, joint resolutions, concurrent resolutions and simple resolutions, for referral to appropriate committees.

NEW ORLEANS BOURBON STREET ATTACK

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin my remarks, I want to mention the very deadly terrorist attack that took place in New Orleans in the early hours of New Year's Day. This ISIS-inspired attack took the lives of 14 innocent victims and injured at least 30 others.

My prayers today, along with prayers of so many Americans, are with all those grieving the loss of a loved one and with the injured and their families.

LAS VEGAS CYBERTRUCK EXPLOSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in Las Vegas, law enforcement agents are working around the clock to understand the motivation of an Army soldier who blew up a Tesla truck in front of the Trump hotel on the same day, injuring seven others.

We expect our Federal, State, and local law enforcement to pursue every lead so that the American people understand what led to both of these attacks.

REMEMBERING JIMMY CARTER

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I also want to mention the passing of former President Jimmy Carter, who died peacefully on December 29 at his home in Georgia at the age of 100.

He was Governor of Georgia and President of the United States but was perhaps even better known for the work that he did after leaving office to promote peace and help those in need, most notably through his decades-long work with Habitat for Humanity.

I will have much more to say about President Carter next week, but for today, I just want to extend my condolences and my prayers to his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren as they mourn their father and grandfather.

MAIDEN SPEECH AS MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I want to welcome Members to the 119th Congress, particularly those freshman Senators who took the oath of office this morning. And congratulations to the new Secretary of the Senate, a great

South Dakotan, and the new Senate Sergeant at Arms, who are assuming their roles today. I am grateful for their service.

Mr. President, the words of the oath, which we hear at the start of each new Congress, are a reminder of the profound responsibility with which we have been entrusted, and that is to "support and defend the Constitution of the United States."

Two hundred thirty-seven years ago, representatives from the States gathered together in Philadelphia, PA, and produced something essentially unique in human history: a blueprint for our new country, founded not on history or conquest but on a set of ideas. It was not a perfect document, as even our Founders attested by making provisions for amendments, but it was and remains one of the greatest and most important political documents in the history of the world. It has made us a country that people around the world look to as a beacon of freedom, a shining city on the hill.

And it is the solemn responsibility of those of us here in Congress to preserve our Constitution, to guard it against enemies both foreign and domestic, and to ensure that it continues to stand so that our Nation continues to stand as a bulwark of freedom and human rights.

Mr. President, when it came time to draft the Constitution, the Founders established safeguards—checks and balances—throughout our government to keep the government in check and ensure that the rights of all Americans were protected. One of those safeguards was the U.S. Senate.

In his discussion of the Senate in Federalist 62, the author notes:

[A] senate, as a second branch of the legislative assembly, distinct from, and dividing the power with, a first, must be in all cases a salutary check on the government. It doubles the security to the people, by requiring the concurrence of two distinct bodies in schemes of usurpation or perfidy.

He further notes:

[T]hat as the improbability of sinister combinations will be in proportion to the dissimilarity in the genius of the two bodies, it must be politic to distinguish them from each other by every circumstance which will consist with a due harmony in all proper measures, and with the genuine principles of republican government.

And the Founders did indeed distinguish the House from the Senate. They made the Senate smaller and Senators' terms of office longer, with the intention of creating a more stable, more thoughtful, more deliberative legislative body to check ill-considered or intemperate legislation and protect the rights of the American people.

As the past 237 years attest, it is a structure that has served this Nation well. Unfortunately, today, there are a lot of people out there who would like to see the Senate turn into a copy of the House of Representatives.

That, Mr. President, is not what our Founders intended or what our country needs. One of my priorities as leader will be to ensure that the Senate stays

the Senate. That means preserving the legislative filibuster, the Senate rule that today has perhaps the greatest impact on preserving the Founders' vision of the U.S. Senate.

It also means restoring the Senate as a place of discussion and deliberation, and that includes empowering committees, restoring regular order, and engaging in extended debate on the Senate floor, where all Members should have a chance to make their voices and the voices of their constituents heard.

We have a lot to do this Congress: border security, extending the tax relief that Republicans delivered during the first Trump administration, lifting burdensome and expensive government regulations to help American businesses and families flourish, providing for our Nation's defense in an increasingly unstable world, bringing appropriations bills to the floor for serious deliberation so that we make the best possible use of taxpayer dollars, an overdue farm bill to update farm programs for farmers and ranchers to reflect current agriculture needs. And the list goes on.

In past years, I have listened to speeches delivered by other leaders welcoming Members to the new Congress and discussing the agenda for the coming months. I now find myself in the position of delivering that speech. My Republican colleagues have trusted me to lead our party—and the Senate—in the next Congress, and I will work every day to be worthy of that trust.

My philosophy of leadership comes from my dad. He was a basketball coach at our high school, and he had some very strong opinions about the right way to play. Sports, to him, was not about personal glory; it was about elevating the team. He hated ball hogs. If someone else was in a better position to take the shot, you always made the extra pass. You didn't try to pad your own statistics.

It is an attitude which I have tried to carry with me throughout my life, and it is an attitude I intend to carry with me to the leader office.

My job is to be of service to my colleagues and to our country. I am here today addressing the Senate in this role because of the confidence my colleagues have placed in me. But I am here, first of all, because of the confidence placed in me by the people of South Dakota. Without the trust that they have given me, I would not have had an opportunity to serve at all, much less have had the opportunity to serve as the majority leader of the U.S. Senate. My first priority here in Congress is always—always—to serve the people of my State.

Mr. President, I grew up in a small town in South Dakota, the town of Murdo—population today: roughly around 500 people. We didn't even have a traffic light when I was growing up there, and I wouldn't have had it any other way.

Life in Murdo had a beautiful simplicity. Sure, it had one or two draw-

backs. With a population that small, we Thune kids could be sure that our parents would have heard all about any of our misdemeanors before we even made it home.

But smalltown life was wonderful. In Murdo, you know everyone and everyone knows you, and that gave us a sense of community and belonging that we carry to this day.

I remember the day I told my mom I was going to run for Congress. She was excited, obviously, and confidently told me, "I know that you'll carry Murdo."

In Murdo, I learned the character of South Dakotans—the work ethic, the commitment to freedom coupled with a belief in personal responsibility, the sense of responsibility to the broader community.

Growing up, we knew that if a roof collapsed under the weight of snow or a windstorm came through and wiped out a barn or we lost a friend or family member, the whole community would rally to help. And that same attitude is reflected in towns across our State.

The South Dakota values I learned growing up helped shape my political philosophy: my belief that government should be limited; that it is best when it is closest to the people; and that if a matter can be handled at the State or the local level, it should be; that the legacy of the past is something to be cherished and preserved—while leaving room for change and adaptation when needed; that freedom is a sacred gift and one that must be defended; and that with freedom comes responsibility.

And, finally, that while government is necessary, government is not where we should look for salvation.

None of us gets where we are alone, and I owe thanks to many people: to my parents Pat and Harold who gave us Thune kids undying love and commitment, a strong set of values, and the most precious gift of all, faith; to my brothers and sister; to my beloved wife Kimberley, who is here with me here today. And let me say that I married up.

And I am grateful every day for Kimberley's love and wisdom, her advice and support, and her endless patience. It is not an easy thing to be married to a Member of Congress. It is not an easy thing to have a Member of Congress for a dad either, and I am grateful not only for my wife's enduring support but for the support of my daughters Brittany and Larissa. They are here today in the Senate as well with their husbands Luke and Scott and with all of our grandchildren: John, Mark, Lucy, Henley, Hewitt, Haven, and one yet-to-be-named little one on the way, who have brought me and Kimberley an immense amount of joy.

Not one of us here in Congress could last a day without our staffs, and so I want to thank all of those who spend and have spent long days and long nights in my office serving South Dakotans and the American people.

Finally, I thank God, who has richly blessed me in every way. As it says in the Scriptures, "For from Him and through Him and for Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen."

(Applause.)

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

NEW ORLEANS BOURBON STREET ATTACK AND LAS VEGAS CYBERTRUCK EXPLOSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, let me concur in the remarks my colleague made about the tragedies in New Orleans and the West Coast in Las Vegas, and we regret that.

REMEMBERING JIMMY CARTER

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I also want to say a word about Jimmy Carter.

Last week, America mourned the loss of one of the most decent and humble public servants we have ever seen: President Jimmy Carter. President Carter was a living embodiment of leadership through service, compassion, and a thirst for justice for all.

I will have more to say about our President in the coming days, and we will all have more to say about the loss of this inspiring American. It is rare that someone leaves the Presidency only to continue building his legacy to even higher levels, as President Carter did.

But that is a testament to how rare and special a person he was. From improving human rights to his tireless efforts alongside his wife Rosalynn with Habitat for Humanity, he inspired millions with his unwavering commitment to justice and equality.

We pray for his family. We pray for his loved ones. May his memory be a blessing and an enduring reminder of what it means to truly serve.

119TH CONGRESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, first, welcome to all of my colleagues to the 119th Congress. I hope everyone had a blessed and happy start to the new year, full of family and loved ones. I was lucky enough to have just that.

Today, the Senate begins a new chapter in its distinguished history. We begin our work at a moment of crossroads for our country. We convene at a time of uncertainty for American democracy, for America's economy, and for the future leadership of America on the world stage. These challenges that we face as a Nation are great, and so must be our resolve.

Let me first begin by acknowledging my friend and colleague, the former