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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 senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Robert Cekada, of Florida, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### TRIBUTE TO MARIO D'ANGELO

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I often come to the floor to talk about milestones in the history of this institution, the U.S. Senate. Today, I pay tribute to a member of our Senate family who has devoted half a century of service to this institution.

In 1976, Mario D'Angelo was hired by the Senate Sergeant at Arms to manage all barbershops in the U.S. Capitol, including the Senate barbershop. As manager, he supervised a remodel of what was then called the "Senators only" barbershop, before it closed in 1981. I think, today, we wonder: Why would they ever have a "Senators only" barbershop? So, finally, Senators had to sit with every other client to get a haircut.

Prior to his job in the U.S. Senate, Mario worked briefly on the House side, helping prepare mail and other documents for distribution.

Now, Mario was born in Italy. You might say he was born with a pair of silver scissors in his hand. His dad Domenico was also a barber.

Mario came to America at the age of 12. Eventually, he followed in his father's footsteps. For nearly a decade, Mario worked as a barber with his dad and uncle, before his employment here on U.S. Capitol Hill.

At some point in the 1990s, the Senate barbershop merged with the wom-

en's beauty shop, located in the basement of the Russell Senate Office Building. To this day, Senate Hair Care serves lawmakers, employees, and residents here on Capitol Hill.

I have been a regular customer of Mario's for many, many years. With my busy schedule in Washington and traveling back and forth to Iowa when the Senate is not in session, I am grateful to be able to get a quick haircut. I don't like to waste time like, hopefully, my fellow Senators don't want to. And when I sit down in Mario's barbershop, I know I can count on quick, competent service, delivered with professionalism and precision.

Some Americans think Congress gets free haircuts. I can assure you that is not the case. I hope the Iowans that come to my town meetings and ask me a question, from time to time—they get this question off the internet: How come you Senators don't pay Social Security taxes? And how come you get free haircuts?

I have been telling them for 45 years that has never been the case, but they still tend to believe what they read on the internet.

So, finally, I am here to, once again, congratulate Mario on 50 years of service here in the U.S. Senate. I consider Mario a friend. I have no doubt that his work ethic carries on through his sons Michael and Nicholas and four grandchildren: Alexander, Isabella, Gabriel, and Lio.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive 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.

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, we praise You that everyone is safe after the weekend shooting at the White House Correspondents' Dinner. You continue to be our refuge and strength, for Your powerful presence places a shield of favor around us.

Lord, we resonate with the psalmist, who declared in Psalm 124: "If the Lord had not been on our side when people attacked us, they would have swallowed us alive when their anger flared against us."

We thank You for the men and women who daily risk their lives to keep us safe, as they strive to bind the pathology of the demonic. Compensate them for their competence, commitment, and courage.

Today, use our lawmakers to cause justice to roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

We pray in Your strong 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. BUDD). 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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WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
DINNER SHOOTING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the events of Saturday night were horrifying. It is difficult to believe that this is the third time—the third time—President Trump has faced an assassination attempt. And, as we know, the shooter's ambitions in this instance extended even further, to other administration officials and the Vice President.

I am very grateful that tragedy was averted and that all attendees at the dinner are safe, but I remain deeply disturbed by the fact that we are looking at the third such instance now in 2 years.

I am thankful for the many law enforcement officers who responded, particularly those who secured the shooter before he could harm the President or anyone else at the event, and I am particularly thankful for the Capitol Police, who activated quickly to provide support at the scene and helped not only Members but staffers to make their way home safely.

Saturday night's events were a grim reminder of the need for law enforcement. And, incredibly, some of the law enforcement officers who responded are working for a Department that is currently completely unfunded thanks to Democrats' refusal to negotiate on an Appropriations bill.

I very much hope that, after the weekend's events, we can all agree that law enforcement Agencies at the Department of Homeland Security and the entire Department need to be funded as quickly as humanly possible.

On Thursday, we passed the budget resolution, and we are now one step closer to completing a bill to fund border security and immigration enforcement for the next 3 years. So why are we here? Why are we being forced to consider a reconciliation bill to fund border security and immigration enforcement at the Department of Homeland Security? And why are we moving to fund these priorities for the next 3 years?

The answer is because Democrats have refused to fund border security and immigration enforcement. They refused to fund Immigration and Customs Enforcement. They have refused to fund Border Patrol. They have opted not to protect our borders.

Perhaps realizing what an untenable position that they are in—Democrats have placed themselves in—we have heard a lot of bluster from the Democrat leader on this issue. He would like people to think that we are here because Republicans refused to agree to any ICE reforms and that we somehow prefer funding border security and immigration enforcement through reconciliation. Give me a break.

As the record abundantly—abundantly—reflects, Republicans bent over backward to reach an agreement with Democrats. The White House not only implemented its own ICE reforms after the events in Minnesota, it repeatedly

offered Democrats a robust package of legislative reforms.

The Democrat leader had the nerve to mention body cameras the other day, as if Republicans have refused to agree to body cameras.

So let me just refresh his memory. Back in January, Republicans and Democrats had agreed on DHS funding legislation. And do you know what it contained? More money for body cameras. And then when Democrats reneged on our agreement and demanded more, the White House offered Democrats a number of other things including—that is right—still more money for body cameras.

We are here not because Republicans wouldn't agree to accept reforms but because Democrats would not accept any agreement, no matter how substantive.

The record would suggest that they never really wanted one; that they were in search of a talking point, not a solution, a political issue that they could use in November. But I think it remains to be seen how well “defund law enforcement” and “defund the border” are going to play for them this fall because let's be very clear: That is what this is.

Democrats refuse to fund Immigration and Customs Enforcement at all. They refuse to fund Border Patrol at all. What does that mean? It means they have refused to provide any funding for deporting criminal illegal immigrants, no matter how heinous their crimes. It means they have refused to provide any funding for a physical presence at the border.

I talked about the Biden border crisis on the floor last week, about the 4 years of recordbreaking illegal immigration at the southern border that occurred on President Biden's watch.

Well, what Democrats are opting for now is even worse. At least we had the Border Patrol under President Biden. Now Democrats are reeling—reeling—opting for borders that are entirely open.

The evils of the Biden border crisis are still being felt. Last month, 18-year-old Sheridan Gorman, a college student taking a walk with her friends, was shot by an illegal immigrant who entered the country under President Biden and was released from custody in 2023.

And Sheridan is just one of a number of American women who were killed by illegal immigrants who entered the country during the Biden border crisis.

Millions—millions—of illegal immigrants, some of them dangerous individuals, were released into the interior of the country under President Biden.

The Biden border crisis facilitated the passage of drugs across the southern border. It facilitated the passage of dangerous individuals. It left communities and cities, including blue cities far from the border, overwhelmed with the influx of migrants.

I won't recapitulate everything that I said last week on the Biden border

crisis, but it underscores the breathtaking—breathtaking—irresponsibility of Democrats' current position. Border security and immigration enforcement are crucial—crucial—functions of government. They are essential to maintaining public safety, and Democrats have opted not to fund them at all: No personnel at our borders, no Federal agents taking dangerous criminal illegals off of our streets.

“Open the borders” and “defund law enforcement”—that is the position the Democrats now own.

As for Republicans, we will continue to move forward to fund these critical functions of government. As long as we are in charge, we will do everything in our power to ensure that our borders are secure and dangerous criminals are not on our streets.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive 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.

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS' ASSOCIATION  
DINNER SHOOTING

Mr. SCHUMER. Well, Mr. President, I and we all are relieved that no one was seriously injured in the shooting at the White House Correspondents' Dinner over the weekend. No matter the perpetrator, no matter the motive, political violence endangers our democracy.

I denounce political violence in all its forms, as I always have and always will.

I commend law enforcement's swift response to apprehend the gunman, which undoubtedly saved many lives, and that includes the Secret Service.

U.S. SECRET SERVICE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on the need to fund the Secret Service, I just heard Leader THUNE lashing out. I sympathize with him. He is in a real pickle. He is fighting with his own Republican Party Speaker in the House. His caucus here is factionalized as to what to do, as to how we fund both ICE and CBP and even DHS. They are in a mess.

So what does the Republican leader do? He points fingers at Democrats. That is absurd. The idea that Democrats are somehow to blame for this Republican shutdown of DHS is just ridiculous, and THUNE and his Republican leadership ought to act like adults and help us solve this problem during serious—serious—times like these, instead of pointing fingers in another direction.

At this very moment, funding for Secret Service and so many other Agencies is sitting idly in the House of Representatives, not waiting for Democrats—we don't run the House—waiting