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Senate

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 give our hearts to You, for You are good and Your mercies endure forever. You rule the day and the night. You are our hope for the years to come.

Lord, we thank You for Your faithfulness, Your guidance, and Your un-failing love. Strengthen our lawmakers when they are weak, give them wisdom when they are uncertain, and give them peace in every season of their lives. Help them to trust You with their cares, to walk in Your ways, and to reflect Your goodness to those around them. Lord, bless their families and all who are in need of Your grace. May Your presence comfort our Senators and Your truth lead them each day.

And, Lord, thank You for our new summer 2026 page class.

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. BUDD). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be

in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Iowa.

ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. On June 6, 1944, the United States and Allied nations led that historic invasion on the beaches of Normandy, France. Two days ago, there was a remembrance of that occasion at a place called Omaha Beach.

Nearly 160,000 Allied troops, 5,000 ships, and 13,000 aircraft supported the assault against Hitler-dominated Europe. That allowed the Allied Powers to gain a foothold in Europe, and 11 months later Europe was free of Adolf Hitler.

While victory eventually followed, D-Day came with very heavy casualties. Thousands of paratroopers died before they even landed out of the sky, and amphibious tanks faced rough surf, and only 2 of 29 tanks made it ashore.

Courageous infantrymen who stormed Omaha Beach were also severely disadvantaged and met with a brutal welcome from German artillery.

On D-Day alone, more than 9,000 Allied soldiers were killed or wounded. More than 2,000 were American servicemen.

Knowing this history ought to prepare us for today and tomorrow and well into the future because these sacrifices remind us of a hard truth; that failing to confront aggression early deepens the cost as time goes on. That lesson is something that we should keep top of mind as we continue efforts to address aggression today, whether it is Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Iran's destabilization efforts across the Middle East, or rising tensions with China.

These challenges are different than they were in World War II, but the pattern is very familiar.

As we reflect on the anniversary of D-Day, we should be reminded not only of the bravery of those who fought but

the united front that made that victory possible.

That same unity forged by America's doctrine of "peace through strength" will determine whether we preserve peace or pay a far higher price in the future.

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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, sometimes, I have to wonder if Democrats remember the last election and how 4 years of recordbreaking illegal immigration on President Biden's watch helped hand the House, the Senate, and the White House to Republicans, because to watch the Democrat Party right now, you would think that 2024 never happened. Democrats not only haven't rejected the open borders philosophy of the Biden administration; they have doubled down.

At least we had the Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement under President Biden. Now, every Senate Democrat is on record as wanting to shut down those Agencies. That is right. Democrats voted to defund—to defund—the agents who stand guard on our Nation's borders and help prevent dangerous individuals from entering our country. They voted to defund the agents who remove criminal illegal immigrants who do make their way into the United States.

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



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And when I say “defund,” I mean defund. Democrats opposed giving these Agencies a single dollar. And I hope—I really hope—that my Democrat colleagues are not going to attempt to defend themselves by claiming that they simply wanted reforms of these Agencies and that Republicans wouldn’t give them to them, because as the record amply, amply reflects, Democrats were offered reforms again and again. The White House not only made reforms on its own; it repeatedly offered Democrats a robust legislative package. But Democrats weren’t interested, presumably because they somehow thought that “defund law enforcement” and “abolish border security” would play well for them in November.

Of course, I am pretty sure most Americans don’t think we should eliminate security at our Nation’s borders or open the floodgates for unchecked illegal immigration. But that hasn’t stopped Democrats from embracing “defund the police 2.0.”

I am happy to report that, as of Friday, Democrats’ crusade to defund border security and law enforcement is well on its way to failure—for now—for now, at any rate. Senate Republicans passed legislation to fund Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement for the next 3 years to ensure that Democrats can’t try defunding these Agencies again this fall. But it is deeply disturbing that we are in this position, that we are having to use the reconciliation process just to get normal appropriations passed for border security and immigration enforcement.

The damage that Democrats caused in the 2026 fiscal year has been immense: two recordbreaking government shutdowns, critical workers at DHS left for months without pay, government workers lined up at food banks, TSA agents quitting in droves. And that is not to even mention what could be irreparable harm to the appropriations process here in the Senate.

And then there is our subject today, “defund the police 2.0”—the Democrats’ resolute refusal to spend a single dollar protecting our Nation’s borders or deporting criminals here in our country illegally.

It is absurd that Republicans are having to act unilaterally to fund basic national security responsibilities.

What is the Democratic Party going to propose defunding next? The DEA? The FBI? Our Nation’s military? Where exactly does this insanity end?

The Democrat leader has repeatedly attempted to cloud the issue, going so far as to make the insane suggestion that Congress somehow has to choose between our national security responsibilities and addressing the challenges facing hard-working Americans—to which I say not only can we walk and chew gum at the same time, but we have an obligation to do so. It is our responsibility as Members of Congress to work to alleviate not only the economic challenges facing Americans but

to protect our Nation’s security, and that includes securing our borders and attempting to ensure that criminals, drug traffickers, terrorists, and other dangerous individuals do not make their way into our country and that, if they do make their way in, they are identified and deported.

As long as Republicans are in charge, we will be focused on both the economic challenges facing our country and on securing peace and safety for hard-working Americans. On our watch, there will be agents at our borders to prevent terrorists, traffickers, and other dangerous individuals from making their way into our country, and there will be agents to take criminal illegal immigrants off of America’s streets.

I only wish I could say the same of our Democrat colleagues.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I met a woman at a hearing, from Chicago, which I am honored to represent. Her name was Marimar Martinez.

On a Saturday morning, last October, Ms. Martinez decided she had some spare clothes that she was going to take to her church to give to people who needed clothing. She got in her car on Kedzie Avenue and was driving along, when she ran into a group of ICE agents, who stopped her.

She is Hispanic and appears to be Hispanic, and they decided to question whether or not she was in America legally. She had committed no crime, violated no law. She was just driving, looking Hispanic, which was enough for them.

Before it was all over, she was driving away from the scene and was shot five times by the ICE agents. How this woman survived, I will never know, but she did. And, of course, she had to go through a lot of hospitalization and a lot of trouble. But she insisted to the ICE agents that she had never violated the law.

And when it was all over, they sought her out at a hospital and arrested her and then, within days or weeks, dropped all charges. They argued, in the original charge, that her car had crashed into one of the ICE agent’s cars and therefore she had committed a criminal act.

When it was all over, that car was removed from the scene and never produced again. They took it to New England, for goodness’ sake, from Chicago so that no one could actually look to see if there was any damage on it. There wasn’t.

Marimar Martinez survived. It was nothing short of a miracle. She was swept up into this hysteria that President Trump started at his rallies, where he would get up and say over and over again: We have to stop these rap-

ists and murderers and terrorists and the criminally insane and child predators who came across the border under the Biden administration. We are going to get them, and we are going to send in people to make sure that happens.

In came the ICE agents. Did you happen to watch what happened in Minnesota? Did you notice the two innocent individuals who were protesting for sure but were not violating the law, who were shot down and killed in Minneapolis?

That is what has happened here and what has led to what the Republican leader just described, the difference between Democrats here, Republicans there, about how we should handle this issue.

Let me say here again what I have said many times. I was chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee. I am now the ranking Democrat. Immigration is one of our issues, and here is what I think is the bottom line I feel everyone agrees with—I hope they do. The bottom line is this: We should never knowingly allow a dangerous person to come into this country. Short declarative sentence: Never knowingly allow a dangerous person to come into this country.

Second, if someone is in this country and wants to stay, wants any kind of legal status, and commits a dangerous crime, they are gone, no ifs, ands, or buts. They are gone.

Third point, we need an orderly process at our border. We cannot accept all of the people in the world who want to immigrate to the United States at this moment. There has to be an orderly process.

Those, I think, are the three basic principles that most Americans agree on. Some will disagree.

But I come to this issue with a personal agenda. My mother was an immigrant to this country. She was brought here at the age of 2. Hers was a poor family from Lithuania that came to the land of opportunity—East St. Louis, IL, where I was born and raised.

My grandfather worked jobs that required manual labor, as immigrants do. They took jobs other people wouldn’t consider. And here, the next generation produces a grandson who was elected to the U.S. Senate.

That is my story. That is my family’s story. That is America’s story. We are a nation of immigrants—some brought here involuntarily, some came here voluntarily—and it has made us a great nation. I am proud of it.

In my office just a few steps from here is my mother’s naturalization certificate by my desk. I want everyone who comes to my office to know I am the proud son of an immigrant. I don’t believe immigrants are inherently evil or bad. I think just the opposite—they are people who come here and work themselves to death so that their kids have a better life.

We have now reached a mindset in this country that anyone who wants to come here is suspected of a crime or