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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.

Mighty God, today, bless our Senators. Let Your Word be a lamp for their feet and a light for their path so they do not walk in darkness or in haste. Lord, shape their desires to match Your purposes. Where they are anxious, bring peace. Where they are weak, bring strength. Where they are uncertain, bring clarity. Grant them wisdom that is not merely human insight but discernment that comes from above. Guard them from pride that blinds and pressure that distorts. Help them to seek truth over convenience, justice over comfort, and peace over war.

We pray in Your precious 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.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement has been in force for 6 years. It is scheduled for review—and renewal, I hope—now, and that process is going on. I have been here two or three times this year to discuss the importance of continuing the Mexico-Canada agreement with the United States.

This week, delegates from Mexico will be meeting with U.S. trade officials to discuss leveling the playing field in agriculture under the USMCA. I would like to discuss some specific issues that affect the country nationally but that also affect my State of Iowa.

In July of last year, the United States ended the Tomato Suspension Agreement with Mexico. In direct response, the Mexican Government launched an investigation into the American pork industry. That is what affects my State of Iowa. Not only has the ending of the suspension agreement led to a tit for tat between the United States and Mexico, but it has opened the door to the issue of seasonality of fresh produce.

The effects of this issue stretch way and far beyond the southernmost regions of the United States—even up to my State of Iowa, where covered produce growers have been negatively impacted by the end of the tomato agreement.

While the USMCA meetings on agriculture take place, I hope that our U.S. Trade Representative Ambassador Greer and others on his team take into consideration all the produce growers across the United States and especially the potential impact of Mexico's investigation of the U.S. pork industry. This is particularly important for my State of Iowa, as my State is the top producing State in the entire country, and Mexico is the No. 1 export market for American pork, with over \$22 billion in exports last year alone. These issues

must be resolved quickly for farmers who rely on this important market.

The USMCA has been an important trade agreement for Iowa agriculture. While there are areas for improvement, I urge the Trump administration to quickly advance trilateral conversations on renewing it. And I think it should be renewed. It is a big deal for all three countries, and it is a particularly big deal for American agriculture.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill 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.

NOMINATION OF WALTER CLAYTON

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, on Thursday President Trump nominated Jay Clayton the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York to be the Director of National Intelligence. He has an impressive resume with experience in both the public sector and the private sector, and he has the kind of skill set necessary for managing issues as complex and varied as those faced by the Director of National Intelligence.

For some perspective from the other side of the aisle, the Democratic vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee noted on Thursday, and I quote:

I have known and respected Jay Clayton for many years and believe he is a capable public servant.

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



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Republicans here in the Senate have built a record of acting quickly on the President's nominees, and we are going to do the same with Mr. Clayton. The Senate Intelligence Committee has already announced that it will hold a hearing on Mr. Clayton's nomination this week.

Once he is approved by the committee, it is my intention to bring his nomination to the floor very quickly, and I hope we will have bipartisan support for making that happen.

While we didn't know exactly when it would arrive, we knew a nomination like Mr. Clayton's was coming. How? Because the President made it very clear that his choice of Bill Pulte for Acting Director of National Intelligence was a temporary pick.

Despite this, Democrats decided to hold section 702 of FISA hostage over Mr. Pulte's temporary, short-term appointment. Thanks to their decision, as of Friday, this program authorization has lapsed.

What does that mean? It means the Nation is currently operating without the full capacity of its most critical intelligence-gathering tool. Let that sink in for just a minute. Thanks to Democrats' actions, the Nation is currently operating without the full capacity of its most critical intelligence-gathering tool all over a short-term, temporary Presidential appointment.

You certainly don't have to take my word for it on the importance of the 702 program to the security of our Nation. Let me just read a few quotes from my Democratic colleagues last time we were in danger of having the program authorization lapse. This was from the Democrat leader:

[T]his very important tool for ensuring our national security is going to lapse, and that would be unacceptable.

From the senior Democrat from Delaware, and I quote again:

This program is critical to the security of our nation, and we could not permit it to lapse.

From the senior Democrat from New Mexico, and I quote again:

As a member of the Intelligence Committee, I've learned the vital role that FISA's Section 702 authority plays in bolstering our nation's ability to effectively fight terrorism, disrupt foreign cyberattacks, impede drug trafficking, and protect U.S. troops. For our national security and the safety of the American people, it is simply too important of a tool to let it expire.

Well, just last week the Democrat vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee called section 702, and I quote again:

[O]ne of the most important intelligence tools [that] we have.

And yet despite all this, despite my Democrat colleagues' clear awareness and acknowledgment of the importance of this program, they voted to let the authorization for this program lapse.

And what the consequences of that will be, we cannot fully predict. We do know information secured through this

program has been repeatedly used to help protect our Nation and American lives from a range of threats from fentanyl to cyber attacks to terrorism. And that information from this program is used on a near daily basis by those entrusted with the defense of our country.

The Democrat vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee has himself referred to the suspension of FISA—and I quote again—"a high-risk proposition."

So while we can't know the consequences of Democrats' decision to allow section 702 authorization to lapse, we do know it is almost certainly putting our Nation at greater risk. And I hope and pray that my Democrat colleagues will rethink their decision to take this program hostage and to restore this key safeguard of our country's security.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

DACA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I just left a rally across the street. There are probably 200 young people there. And it was a rally because today is the 14th anniversary of the creation of something called DACA. The story behind it is worth repeating.

It was more than 21 years ago that I introduced a bill called the DREAM Act. The DREAM Act said if you were a child—infant, toddler, young child—brought to this country by your parents, you ought to deserve a chance—you deserve a chance—to aspire to become a citizen in the United States. But it is a path that you have to fight and walk down personally.

I introduced the DREAM Act. I have called for it on the floor of the Senate several times over the last 20 years. I have gotten a majority vote, but I never could hit that magic number of 60 at the right moment.

There came a time when a new Senator came to this Chamber to join me in Illinois with an unusual name: Barack Obama. He was my colleague, my junior Senator, and he was a co-sponsor of the DREAM Act, which I just described to you.

The time came, in 2008, when he was elected President of the United States. I had hoped, with his leadership and help, we could finally pass the DREAM Act. But fate didn't give us that opportunity.

There came a time when I realized I had to appeal to him personally to help us with these young people, so that they wouldn't be deported, and he did. I wrote a letter with Richard Lugar, a

Republican Senator from Indiana, to President Obama. Then, on a bipartisan basis, we asked him to do something by Executive order to protect these young children from being deported.

He created DACA, and the DACA Program was very straightforward. By Executive order, if you were one of those people brought to the United States as a child and you were living in this country and had no strikes against you—anything serious—you ought to deserve a chance to work without fear of deportation. That is what DACA is. It allows the individuals who qualify to work in this country without fear of being deported.

President Obama signed that Executive order 14 years ago today. Mr. President, 835,000 individuals are protected by DACA, protected from deportation and arrest—835,000.

Who are they? Teachers, nurses, caregivers. They do a myriad of jobs, but they do them all proud to be a part of America.

And every 2 years, they have to be examined again to continue with DACA. Every 2 years, they have to pay a \$600 filing fee to go through a background check—a criminal background check—to make sure they are no danger to anyone. They have to pass that every 2 years.

Now, what has happened under President Trump is the worst. What they have done is to shut off this renewal of DACA status for these thousands of people as they become due. It means that many of them are now being deported by Trump—by President Trump—and his administration.

I have heard his speeches so many times I can repeat sections of it. He said he was going to go after the undocumented immigrants in America. He was going after the rapists, the murderers, the terrorists, the criminally insane, and those who prey on our children.

Well, that doesn't apply to DACA at all. Each of these individuals has gone through a thorough background check—a criminal background check—and they don't have anything like that in their background. If something terrible should occur involving them, I would be the first to say they have to be forced out of this country and leave. But for those who were brought here as children, who really want to be part of our future, this is their only chance.

So I left the rally across the street, in the shadow of the Capitol, with hundreds of DACA recipients who are asking for protection to continue, which they believe that they are entitled to under the law.

The courts—the Federal courts—have ordered this administration to start renewing DACA applications. The administration ignores them and doesn't do it. That, to me, is wrong—just plain wrong.

When you think that these kids grew up in America, went to their classroom every day and pledged allegiance to