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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, August 10, 2026, at 11 a.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7, 2026

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN R. CURTIS, a Senator from the State of Utah.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our Father, clothed in dazzling splendor, we bow our hearts in Your presence. You are our helper, our defender, and our refuge. You have been our hope through every generation and will remain our hope for the years to come.

Lord, strengthen our Senators for the challenges they face today. Direct their thoughts, words, and actions, and help them faithfully follow Your leading. Use them to bring healing where there is brokenness, wisdom where there is confusion, and hope for a brighter tomorrow. Give them peace in turbulent moments and a faith that remains steadfast under pressure. May their words be a foundation of life, bringing encouragement, truth, and grace.

We pray in Your majestic Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, August 7, 2026.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN R. CURTIS, a Senator from the State of Utah, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CURTIS thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE RESOLUTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the

following nominations pursuant to S. Res. 817, which are pending en bloc.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

JOBS REPORT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the job numbers this morning, the alarm bells on the sorry state of Trump's economy keep ringing and ringing. The jobs report this morning revealed America lost 23,000 jobs because of Trump's disastrous agenda, his tariffs, and his failed war. But that is not all. It got even worse. This morning's report also revealed that 103,000 fewer jobs were added in May and June than previously reported. So the total job loss reported is close to 130,000 jobs.

The only person who ought to lose their job right now is Donald Trump. He is handling the economy so poorly with the chaos, the inconsistency, the lack of paying attention to the facts, the lying. It is all coming down to his doorstep.

Trump sowed mayhem in our economy with his costly war, with his chaotic and inconsistent policies, and with his nonstop corruption, but he is not suffering the consequences; working Americans are.

Donald, start doing your job so the American people stop losing theirs. Trump cost America 23,000 jobs last month, but he has the gall to call this "the greatest economy we've ever had by far." What planet is he on? Does he not care at all about the people, the 300-and-some-odd million Americans he represents? He just thinks by saying these things it is true.

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



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Trump, when you say it is the greatest economy we have ever had and we have lost over 130,000 jobs in the last few months, you don't know what you are talking about. You are not in reality, and it is cruel and callous to the people who are no longer earning a salary.

Americans are working multiple jobs just so they can feed and house their families. How are Americans supposed to afford Trump's skyrocketing costs if they lose their jobs too?

Last week's news that economic growth is down and costs are up is a one-two gut punch to the American people, and this terrible jobs report is the uppercut that follows.

Every red economic flag is waving; every warning light is flashing; and every alarm bell is ringing about Trump's catastrophic handling of the economy, and he is in la-la land not even paying attention to it and saying we have the greatest economy ever.

RUSSIA SANCTIONS

Mr. President, on Russian sanctions, if we want to stop the bloodshed Russia unleashed on Ukraine, we have to make it clear to Putin that he is fighting a losing battle. The Russia sanctions bill sends an unmistakable message to Moscow that America will back Ukraine to the hilt; that we will look for new ways to back Ukraine. Lindsey Graham was searching for those ways for a long time, and today his wishes—even though he is no longer with us—are likely to achieve fruition. The Russia sanctions bill will make it clear to Moscow that America will back Ukraine to the hilt. The Russian sanctions bill sends an unmistakable message to Putin that we will oppose him for as long as it takes to defeat him.

I have long said that supporting Ukraine and its fight against Russia's illegal invasion is about protecting the United States and our future generations as much as it is about supporting Ukraine. Just this morning, the Wall Street Journal reported that U.S. intelligence is now warning Putin may try a limited assault on NATO in the coming months and years to test our resolve.

Putin's ambitions beyond Ukraine have long been clear to all of us who have fought tooth and nail to support Ukraine. Putin wants to test America's resolve because he doubts Trump's resolve. That is what happens when Trump tries to placate the Russians at every turn. And now Congress, bipartisan, with Lindsey Graham looking down upon us, is saying: Even if Trump doesn't get it, the danger that Putin presents, we do, and we are taking strong action.

We need to show Putin he is dead wrong about questioning our strength, and this bill is an important step in that direction. The legislation is going to help drain Putin's war chest and give Ukraine the tools to defend itself.

So I want to thank Senators Blumenthal and Shaheen for all their work on this bill. They have been dili-

gent, dogged, and unrelenting, and they are about to achieve their goal by passing this legislation.

Thugs like Putin don't care about what we say, only what we do. You can only stop him with actions and not words. Russia is losing momentum in this war every single day, and we will keep helping Ukraine stop the invaders in their tracks for as long as it takes.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, and on the CR, finally, for months, Senate Democrats have been clear as day: We want to reach across the aisle and hammer out a budget that delivers for the American people. Today's CR gives us the breathing room necessary to work out a budget that helps make life more affordable to working families and reins in Trump's rampant chaos, his rampant corruption.

Senate Democrats have stood up for the American people at every stage of these negotiations, and that is why Senator MURRAY successfully blocked Trump's scheme to withhold taxpayer-funded grants from States he deems disloyal to MAGA. Americans of every stripe—in blue States, in red States, and States in between—want their government to deliver for them. Senate Democrats won't stop until we get the job done.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators be permitted to speak prior to the scheduled rollcall votes: YOUNG for up to 5 minutes; WARNOCK for up to 5 minutes; CASSIDY for up to 10 minutes; WYDEN for up to 15 minutes; PAUL for up to 20 minutes; SHAHEEN for up to 5 minutes; BLUMENTHAL for up to 10 minutes; and RISCH for up to 5 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Indiana.

RUSSIA SANCTIONS

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, Russia has been condemned for years, but what it has not yet faced is a cost high enough to change its course.

Senator Lindsey Graham understood that. The bill he left us, his final legislative legacy, does not stop at symbolic penalties or mere gestures. It is a strategy. It is a strategy to impose real costs on those sustaining Russia's war machine.

Lindsey, who was a friend of mine, understood what it would take. Not another statement of outrage, but a serious plan, a plan to make continuing this war more costly than ending it.

And it starts with an uncomfortable truth: We cannot choke off the war

chest while Russia's largest customers keep replenishing it, even as those same governments insist they want the war to end.

The United States, however, has leverage—enormous leverage. Access to our market carries enormous weight. Our allies know this, our adversaries know it, and the governments buying Russian energy certainly know it.

But we should remember that tariff threats of this magnitude do not stop at the doors of a Foreign Ministry. They have real-world consequences. They can reach factory floors, farms, small businesses, and family budgets here at home.

That doesn't mean we shouldn't act. We should act. But if Americans might absorb some of these costs, they deserve a policy that is transparent, disciplined, and tied to well-defined objectives.

That is why Congress has a responsibility—a responsibility to ensure that these authorities remain focused on their intended purpose, with clear standards governing when additional pressure is warranted and when demonstrated progress should be recognized.

The bipartisan support for this legislation sends a clear and a very important message: The pressure authorized here is directed at the countries financing Russia's war and must remain tied to that mission—full stop.

The goal—and the result Congress should demand—is a race to the bottom among Russia's largest energy buyers, with each country competing to cut its purchases faster than the others.

But a race only works when every participant knows the rules, when every participant understands the objective, and trusts that meaningful action will be recognized.

If countries buy more Russian energy, if they conceal transactions, or if they help Moscow evade sanctions—well, the President has every right to increase pressure, and he will have my encouragement.

At the same time, if countries cut those purchases, stop enabling Russia, and demonstrate the change with real evidence, our policy should respond accordingly—that is how leverage produces action instead of simply imposing costs.

And as this legislation moves forward through the process, I look forward to working with Chairman CRAPO and the administration to keep these tariff authorities focused on the threats Congress intends to confront—the very threats Lindsey Graham worked so hard to confront.

This bill presents a simple proposition: Countries may finance Russia's war or they may enjoy the benefits of access to the U.S. market, but they shouldn't expect to do both without consequences.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in