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No. 35

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TED BUDD, a Senator from the State of North Carolina.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Creator God, by Your will, we came into being, and at Your command, we shall one day transition into eternity.

Let Your Spirit lead our Senators today. May they increase in humility, integrity, and faith so that each day they will approach nearer to Your likeness. Lord, help them to offer themselves afresh to be used in Your service.

Show them Your ways, guide them on Your path, and empower them to obey Your precepts. Give them wisdom when perplexed, vigor when discouraged, and guidance when they seek Your will.

And, Lord, we thank You for the courage, commitment, and compassion in the life and legacy of Jesse Jackson. We pray in Your merciful 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 bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 23, 2026.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable TED BUDD, a Senator from the State of North Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 647.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant bill clerk read the nomination of John DeLeeuw, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board for the remainder of the term expiring December 31, 2026.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 647, John DeLeeuw, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board for the remainder of the term expiring December 31, 2026.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Ted Budd,
Bernie Moreno, Shelley Moore Capito,
Todd Young, Ted Cruz, Roger Marshall,

Roger F. Wicker, John Cornyn, John R. Curtis, Steve Daines, Mike Lee, Joni Ernst, Jon Husted, Jim Banks, Rick Scott of Florida.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

TARIFFS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, Americans breathed a brief sigh of relief last week when the Supreme Court knocked out Trump's harmful tariff proposals.

Americans are suffering because Donald Trump is raising tariffs. People pay more for so many daily goods, so many groceries, for cars, for homes, for everything. And the American people hate the tariffs because they know it is raising their costs.

And so, for a brief moment, there was a sigh of relief that you heard from one end of America to the other because the Supreme Court correctly said: The President can't raise tariffs on an emergency basis, only the Congress can.

But Donald Trump, who is in a bubble, has no understanding of what the American people need, feel, or want, re-imposed the tariffs right away, and then he one-upped it—doubled down on it—and raised them again, and now Americans are back in the same position they were before the Court decision: higher prices, more inflation, harder to afford things, harder to pay the bills. And a good chunk of that increase, the difficulty in paying the bills, is because of Trump's tariffs.

Democrats will not stand for it. And, in fact, the new tariff regime that

• 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 put in must expire in a few months and needs Congress' approval. I am here to tell Donald Trump and the American people: We will not extend those tariffs, and they will expire in a few months. And hopefully then Republicans will join us in not allowing Trump to raise tariffs, which so raise costs for the American people.

Tariffs are highly unpopular among Democrats, Independents, and Republicans. Donald Trump, in his bubble, does not understand the burdens he is imposing on American families, but we Democrats do, and we will do everything we can to stop these odious tariffs that are causing so much harm, so much pain, on American families.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Ohio.

TRIBUTE TO ROGER S. PENSKE

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I rise today with deep personal gratitude and profound admiration to honor a legendary American, Roger S. Penske. This past Friday, February 20, marked his 89th birthday.

Born in Shaker Heights, OH, Roger Penske has made America better and has touched the lives of millions of Americans in an extraordinarily positive way. As we celebrate this occasion, we also mark the 60th anniversary of Team Penske, the racing dynasty he founded at the age of 29 in February of 1966. Team Penske has defined excellence, innovation, and triumph in motor sports, unlike any other racing program in U.S. history.

Roger's journey is truly inspiring. At the age of 21, he became a champion driver, capturing the SCCA national title. He competed in Formula 1. He competed in NASCAR, and, as I just mentioned, he competed in the SCCA.

In 1961, he was named the Sports Illustrated Driver of the Year. His success on the track earned him the enduring nickname of "The Captain" for his unmatched strategic mind and competitive fire.

After an incredible racing career, he turned his attention to building Team Penske into one of the most successful teams in the history of any professional sport. The results are truly staggering. Let's go through them: a Formula 1 victory, three Daytona 500 wins, a record-setting 20 Indianapolis 500 victories.

You can see that photograph here—20 times won the Indianapolis 500. By the way, it is incredible to win it once; to win it 20 times is unheard of.

Forty-eight national championships, over 700 pole positions, more than 650 major wins across INDYCAR, NASCAR, and IMSA, along with other racing series—this includes victories in the 24 Hours of Daytona, the 12 hours of Sebring, along with a win in Australia's legendary Bathurst 1000 race.

More than 100 drivers have raced for Team Penske over the course of six decades, includes legends such as Mark Donohue, Rick Mears, Rusty Wallace, and Al Unser.

Just recently, Roger bought and revitalized the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, which hosts the single largest 1-day sporting event on the planet, the Indy 500. This acquisition assured this iconic venue's future for generations of fans.

And those are just Roger Penske's accomplishments on the racetrack. He leads Penske Corporation, a global powerhouse in transportation, logistics, and retail automotive, employing tens of thousands of Americans, with operations in every single State. Penske Automotive Group is the largest automobile dealership owner on Earth, selling more new vehicles in more places than any other single organization. It also owns the single largest automobile dealership on the planet, Longo Toyota, which sells almost 20,000 new vehicles in a single location per year.

In 2019, Roger's extraordinary contributions earned him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor, given to only 674 Americans in our entire history. This award celebrated not just his dominance in racing and industry but his embodiment of American entrepreneurship, patriotism, and excellence—qualities that continue to shine brightly.

And, fittingly, Roger's legacy ties directly into our Nation's upcoming milestone. As part of America's 250th anniversary this year, he is spearheading the Freedom 250 DC Grand Prix, a groundbreaking INDYCAR street race around the National Mall and our iconic monuments on August 21 to 23. This historic, first ever motor race in our Nation's Capital will showcase the majesty of this great city, honor our independence, and highlight the innovation and pride of American motor sports. It is a fitting tribute to a man whose life has been dedicated to speed, strategy, and service to this great country.

Roger Penske is more than a racer, more than a businessman, more than a philanthropist supporting education, veterans, and communities in Ohio and beyond. He is the best of what America represents: grit, integrity, and an unyielding belief in doing things the right way.

My own connection to Roger Penske goes back two decades. I bought my first automobile dealership from him, a pivotal moment in my life. That taught me firsthand the values that underpin the Penske way: Effort equals results.

I have gotten to know Roger Penske, I have gotten to know his family, I have gotten to know his company, and I have gotten to know his team. They are utterly amazing, and his attention to detail is impossible to capture with words.

It is why George Costanza, in a memorable Seinfeld episode, was declared as "most definitely not Penske material." But in fairness to George Costanza, that is a high bar that many of us would find hard to achieve.

As the U.S. Senator from Ohio, his birthplace, and someone whose path was forever changed by him, I am honored to salute Roger Penske on his 89th birthday and the 60th anniversary of Team Penske.

Thank you, Captain, for your friendship, for your inspiration, and for showing all of us what it means to win with class and with heart.

Happy birthday, Roger. Here is to many more victories on and off the track.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today alongside my companion and friend and colleague, the senior Senator from Ohio, to honor and recognize a great American, and that great American would be Roger Penske.

Last week, Roger celebrated his 89th birthday. Team Penske celebrated its 60th year. Both Roger and Team Penske have very much of which to be proud; yet Roger is going to be the last person ever to discuss his remarkable achievements.

His guiding principle is "effort equals results." Now, that is a phrase those of us from Wyoming understand very well. "Effort equals results" simply means that a hard day's work equals real rewards. It also means extra efforts yield exceptional results. Honesty, hard work, and integrity are going to get you far in life, and Roger Penske continues to go the full distance.

Now, as a teenager, Roger got into the car business—buying and fixing up old cars. Cars were his calling. Even during college, at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania, he was successfully racing automobiles. He had a successful racing career, a successful career as an owner of a fleet of car dealerships, and a successful career helming Penske Truck Rental. He employs tens of thousands of Americans, and he employs people in all 50 States. The Penske name is synonymous with success, with excellence, and with moving America forward. Effort equals results.

As Roger grew more and more successful in business, racing was always on his mind. So, 60 years ago this month, at the age of 29, in 1966, Team Penske was born. Racing is where Roger's passion comes alive. Team Penske debuted at the 24 Hours of Daytona. They haven't hit the brakes in 60 years. To use a racing term, Roger is still "standing on the gas pedal."

Roger is known in racing as the Captain, and the Captain's leadership has made Team Penske the most successful racing team in automobile history. Their drivers have had more than 600 victories all across various forms of racing. Team Penske has won a record-setting 20 Indianapolis 500 races and, this year, a historic three-peat at the 24 Hours of Daytona. Effort equals results.

Just like race car driving itself, the Penske name is woven into the fabric

of America. Fittingly, both will be part of this year's America 250 celebrations. In this historic year, Roger Penske is spearheading the Freedom 250 DC Grand Prix. It will be this August. Our Nation's Capital will host its first-ever INDYCAR street race. It will be magnificent. This course will take drivers around the Nation's Capital, and it will be a historic race. This was Roger's vision, a vision for how to put American patriotism on full display.

As a lifelong racing fan, I can't think of a better way to celebrate American innovation, American speed, and enduring excellence. Many people might suggest that the Freedom 250 DC Grand Prix is a culmination of all of Roger's hard work. Those people would be mistaken because, at only 89 years old, Roger is just starting his engine.

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 bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. 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.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 6644

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6644) to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF ESCORT COMMITTEE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Presiding Officer of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with the like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber for the joint session to be held at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, February 24, 2026.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF CARTHAGE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, among the robust pines of western Maine, Carthage was founded on February 20, 1826. Today, it is an honor to join the people of Carthage, ME, in celebrating the 200th anniversary of a community that is a great place to live, work, and raise families.

Prior to the founding of Carthage, the land was used as hunting grounds by the Wabanaki people. The Wabanaki hunted white-tailed deer, moose, beavers, ducks, and grouse throughout the region.

In 1804, Mr. William Bowley moved onto the land, accompanied by his brother Oliver and father Gideon. The Bowley family built the first sawmill, called Bowley's Mills, on Webb River at the base of Lake Webb. Webb River drains to the Androscoggin River, making the location particularly appealing. The family went on to build a gristmill close by the following year. The land was considered formally settled in 1812 and then founded in 1826 with the fabled city of antiquity as its namesake.

By the 1880s, the town had grown to more than 500 residents and had farms, two sawmills, five schools, a gristmill and limestone quarry. Centuries later, the town retains the charm and rugged beauty that attracted the first settlers. The town's economy was originally dominated by forests and farms. Today, the town attracts outdoor enthusiasts from throughout Maine and beyond to Rocky Mountain Terrain Park and nearby Mt. Blue State Park.

Carthage is also home to Newman Cemetery, a reminder of the townspeople's service to the State and country. In this historic cemetery, lie the remains of founding families, as well as veterans of the Revolutionary War and Civil War.

Hiram Pitt Bennet was born in Carthage in 1826, the year of the town's founding. Bennet moved west to Colorado, where he was elected a territory Delegate to Congress. During his time in Congress, Bennet worked tirelessly to push for Colorado's statehood. The legacy of his advocacy and public service continue to live on as testament to the fine people of Carthage.

Carthage stands as a shining example of the thriving communities and pristine nature our great State of Maine has to offer. I congratulate the people of Carthage, ME, on this 200th anniversary and wish you all the best in the years to come.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Holstead, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2025, the Secretary of the Senate, on February 12, 2026, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 142. Joint resolution disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the D.C. Income and Franchise Tax Conformity and Revision Temporary Amendment Act of 2025.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2025, the enrolled joint resolution was signed on February 12, 2026, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. HUSTED).

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 6644. An act a bill to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-2775. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Proclamation 6867 of March 1, 1996, with respect to Cuba; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-2776. A message from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014, with respect to Ukraine; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2777. A message from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, with respect to the situation in Venezuela; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CRUZ, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 233. A bill to amend the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization