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Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Honorable ALAN ARMSTRONG, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who in Your wisdom so numbered and ordered our days that we must walk by faith and not by sight, increase our trust in Your sovereign care.

As the U.S. Senate turns to a new chapter in its history, remind our lawmakers that no challenge is beyond Your power and no circumstance beyond Your ability to redeem.

Lord, grant our Senators a faith that triumphs over despair, a love that triumphs over hate, and a courage that triumphs over fear and faintheartedness. Strengthen their resolve, sharpen their judgment, and deepen their commitment to the common good. Empower them to be bold and faithful participants in the awesome responsibility of preserving our Nation's strength, advancing its promise, and safeguarding the freedoms entrusted to us.

May their decisions be guided by wisdom, their actions tempered by compassion, and their leadership sustained by an abiding commitment to justice and the well-being of all our people.

We offer this prayer in Your great and Holy 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, November 10, 2026.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ALAN ARMSTRONG, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ARMSTRONG 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.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

SURVIVOR JUSTICE TAX PREVENTION ACT—Motion to Proceed—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 2347, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 453, H.R. 2347, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any damages, other than punitive damages, received on account of any sexual acts or sexual contact.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

CHINA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, despite talking a big game, Trump continues to show a troubling resistance to confront China on AI and to protect American national security.

The press reports that Trump was briefed more than a year ago that Nvidia's CEO was having an affair with a suspected Chinese spy, and Trump didn't do anything—anything—about it. Can you believe that? One of our most important companies that is involved in national security and the CEO might be having an affair with a Chinese spy and Trump did nothing about it? What a dereliction of duty. He is supposed to protect America, not China, not his friends.

Trump has been busy trying to defend Jensen Huang when he ought to be defending our national security. It is that simple. It is obvious.

Instead, Trump invited Nvidia's CEO to join him on a visit to Beijing, took his advice on granting the PRC access to some of our most advanced AI chips, and accepted a $25 million donation from the company for his golden ballroom.

I have been saying this for years: Our cutting-edge AI chips are too valuable to fall into the hands of potential adversaries.

This alarming situation makes it clear that Congress must now act to pass critical bipartisan legislation like the AI OVERWATCH Act, the MATCH Act, and Chip Security Act to cut off China's access to advanced American technology before it is too late.

Myself and colleagues have been pushing on this for quite a while, and I urge my Republican colleagues to come together with us to pass this legislation while we still can. And I call on the Trump administration to brief the Senate and House Intelligence Committees immediately on the PRC's efforts to spy on Nvidia and other U.S. AI companies.

We also need answers on Nvidia's influence campaign and how it affected

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

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the Trump administration's national security decisions, including the loosening—loosening—of key export controls.

We need a full accounting for Trump's failure to address foreign espionage in the American tech industry—full accounting.

HEGSETH IMPEACHMENT

Mr. President, the tantrum Pete Hegseth threw at the Pentagon this morning only further weakened Americans' confidence in his ability to lead our brave men and women in uniform. The Senate needs to put Hegseth on trial and remove him from the Pentagon for his management of this disastrous, illegal war. He must be put on trial.

This morning, Pete Hegseth had the audacity to declare a ''historic military victory'' in Iran. Can you believe it? What the hell is he talking about?

A gallon of gas costing more than $4 a gallon is not a historic victory.

Iran and its proxies still taking potshots at passing ships 8 months into the war isn't a historic victory.

Trying to hide American casualty numbers from the public certainly doesn't scream ''historic victory.''

Imagine justifying your disaster by arguing that the Vietnam war was worse and doing so just a day before Veterans Day. Well, that is just what Hegseth did. The guy has no sense, no morality, no decency, no honor.

The administration could not be any more clueless about how unpopular Trump's failed war is with the American people.

Hegseth fancies himself as a Patton, but he is nothing more than a deranged pundit. He has to go. Hegseth is already trying to hide behind our troops, falsely claiming that Congress disapproves of our courageous servicemembers, even though we have fought to bring them home for months.

Let's be clear, the failure of this war falls solely on the shoulders of the Trump administration's disastrous leadership, not on our brave servicemembers who have served us so well.

Asked about impeachment, Hegseth said:

> If [Congress wants] to talk about [Trump's] foreign policy and national security, let's do it—I'll see you there.

Well, Pete, we will be seeing you soon. And you better come prepared to defend one of the worst foreign policy records in American history.

INFLATION

Mr. President, on the new inflation data, the October inflation numbers released this morning are yet another reminder of why the American people gave Republicans the boot in the last election. Trumpflation is busting working families' budgets, and for 2 years my Republican colleagues buried their heads in the sand. Senate Republicans' disregard for the woes wrought by Trump's costs, chaos, and corruption is disgraceful and disdainful. Trump has said, time and time again, he simply doesn't care about Americans' costs.

The biggest surge in costs in October was food prices. I am talking about eggs, fish, beef. It is crazy and very difficult for the American people. Food prices skyrocketed to astronomical heights because of Trump's illegal war, his costly tariffs, and his nonsensical trade war with Canada. Trump ran the economy into the ground, and Republicans were more than happy to help him do it.

Senate Democrats are dedicating every second of every day to stopping the high costs of groceries, gas, electricity, healthcare, and more from spiraling out of control.

And, Republicans, if you dare to stand in the way, the American people will hand you another withering rebuke on election day of 2028.

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.

Mrs. MOODY. 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.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mrs. MOODY. Mr. President, I rise today as someone who has reflected on last week, as so many Americans around this country, and also as someone who serves as a Senator for the great free State of Florida. And I take that responsibility, the fact that I have been given the trust and have been expected to be a steward of this incredible country—I take that very seriously.

I don't think anyone in this Chamber—no matter your party, no matter your State—can come back into session today and not take a moment to reflect upon the fact that we are in year 250 of the United States of America, and we just came through an election where our people have spoken very clearly. And those of us in this Chamber that are in these seats and will remain here until the next Congress comes in and gets sworn in, we are presented with an opportunity—an opportunity to learn from last week and the elections, hear from our bosses—the Americans, the people of our States—and consult, strategize, inspire, motivate those within our own caucus to remember that we are in the majority and we can still get things done. In fact, we must get things done.

We currently hold the baton that our forefathers handed to us to keep this the greatest country on this planet, to make sure that when we hand that baton to the next generation, it is a country that stood for the belief that a free people can govern ourselves; and in doing so, we can protect their rights, their safety, and ensure that they have meaningful opportunity to pursue their American dream.

And I believe the frustration—maybe even the lack of trust—in Congress stems from the fact that they believe that we have not rolled up our sleeves every single day and been mindful that that is our first duty. When we took the oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States of America against all enemies foreign and domestic, they expected us to do that every single day and never take our eyes off the ball as to who was in charge. And that is the people.

The people told us, over the last 2 years, what they want us to do. They want us to save America. They want us to make sure we are making policy decisions with their interests in mind, their interests first, this Nation first. They want us to make sure we are delivering an accountable government that they can trust, that they believe is acting on their behalf and in no one else's interests.

And we have the responsibility now, the challenge now, to take these next 2 months and get the people's work done. Let's deliver on SAVE America. Let's deliver a no stock trading ban. Let's deliver on permitting reform. Let's deliver on affordability legislation. Let's roll up our sleeves and make sure every nomination gets through.

And what does that mean? That means working really, really hard. That means showing up early, going home late. That means working through holidays. I have urged my colleagues and leadership to do just that.

I came here today and said: Let's honor our veterans tomorrow, those that served us that said, ''I will put my life on the line for you, this country, the fundamental idea that a free people can govern ourselves and live together with safety and security and our rights protected.''

They stood up for that. They fought for that. Over a million died for that. And now we—right now, in this moment—have the ability to serve in our own way. We can work through Veterans Day. We can work the rest of this week, and we can work for the next 2 months to deliver on nominations, to deliver on accountability for this government, to root out fraud. We can deliver on making sure the folks know we are doing everything in our power to make sure the American people can pursue happiness and live the American dream. They should go to bed every night knowing that we are burning the midnight oil to get that done.

I am going to introduce a resolution to honor our veterans and recognize Veterans Day, and I believe that we can do more than just file a resolution and announce that we are going to all, as a country, respect Veterans Day. To truly honor our veterans, let's sacrifice ourselves. Let's stay here and work. Let's work as hard as we can until this Congress gets handed over to the 120th Congress. We owe that to those that came before us that have made this country what it is today, and we owe that to every generation that will

come after us—that when we pass that baton, we did all we could do to support and defend this Constitution and ensure this remains the greatest country on Earth.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mrs. MOODY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled recess now occur from 12:40 until 3 p.m.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes.

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

GAZA

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, tens of thousands of Palestinians have been displaced yet again after heavy rain flooded more than 70,000 tents in Gaza this weekend. Four people, including three children and one woman, are dead. Nearly everyone in the area needs help.

This is a humanitarian emergency unfolding in realtime, and the Israeli Government's ongoing blockade of fuel and the destruction of equipment has made getting help to people much more difficult.

This is not a partisan accusation. Even the President's Board of Peace called the Israeli Government's response insufficient, adding that ''[delays have] . . . exacerbated the consequences of a foreseeable humanitarian challenge.''

''[Delays have] . . . exacerbated the consequences of a foreseeable humanitarian challenge.''

This isn't from me. This isn't from the Democrats. This is from the President's Board of Peace.

And winter is just beginning in Gaza, and things will get worse without urgent action. The Israeli Government must immediately allow rescue equipment, building materials, and winter supplies into Gaza.

The suffering happening right now among women and children and families who have had their lives turned upside down again and again is not inevitable. These people need and deserve help because they are people.

There are a lot of challenges when it comes to Israel and Palestine that are complicated and fraught and contentious, but we should all be able to agree that repairing torn tents and helping people to dry out and providing warmth to freezing children is a basic human obligation. We don't need to agree about everything else before we help these people. We should help them because they are people.

IRAN WAR

Mr. President, tens of millions of Americans all across the country and from every part of the political spectrum sent a very, very clear message last week: Enough is enough. We need to end this war.

It is raising prices for everyone everywhere, and it is not making us any safer. This war has been a disaster on every level, and it needs to end now.

Mr. President, $2,000—that is how much this war has cost American households already. Gas is just shy of four bucks a gallon nationally, and it is even higher in Hawaii at about $5.63. Diesel is more than six bucks after reaching a record high in September. Food prices are up because of fuel and fertilizer costs, and that includes beef, seafood, fruits, vegetables, dairy. Everything is up. The President may have started this reckless adventure all on his own, but it is the rest of us getting crushed at the pump and at the grocery store and everywhere we go.

Now his argument is that the short-term economic pain is worth the long-term security gain, except for this: We are in a weaker position today than we were at the start of the war. Just consider the President's own stated objectives. He wanted regime change, but the same regime is in place, only younger and more radical.

He wanted to wipe out Iran's nuclear program, only to turn around and say ''I don't care'' about Iran's stockpile of highly enriched uranium.

He wanted to obliterate Iran's missiles, and yet the missiles keep falling.

He wanted the Strait of Hormuz to be open and free, which was the case before the war, but now we have destroyers and aircraft carriers babysitting commercial ships every time they cross the strait. That is neither open nor free.

And here is the thing. These disastrous consequences were not only foreseeable, they were foreseen. Every President over the past few decades has been pitched specifically by Prime Minister Netanyahu to go to war with Iran, and every President of both parties has wisely rejected it. And that is what makes the consequences of this war especially frustrating for so many Americans on both sides of the aisle. When Donald Trump said no new wars, we believed him. This wasn't Joe Biden, the former chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. This wasn't George W. Bush. This was the guy who campaigned not once, but twice, against endless wars in the Middle East, and yet here we are.

Mr. President, 10 months in, 23 American servicemembers are dead. Thousands of Iranian civilians, including women and children, have been killed. People here at home and all around the world are having to choose between feeding their families and heating their homes and seeing a doctor because of acute shortages and skyrocketing prices.

Enough is enough. There is broad recognition from the President's son, from the Vice President, on down that this is not working. So let's end it, and let's end it together. Because every day that this war goes on, there is more pain and suffering for literally no reason at all.

I yield the floor.

RECESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 3 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:43 p.m., recessed until 3 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. TILLIS).

SURVIVOR JUSTICE TAX PREVENTION ACT—Motion to Proceed—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

RECESS

Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess until 3:30 p.m.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:02 p.m., recessed until 3:30 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. HUSTED).

SURVIVOR JUSTICE TAX PREVENTION ACT—Motion to Proceed—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

TRIBUTE TO CAITLYN STEPHENSON

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, in my many years of public service, the biggest lesson that I have certainly learned is that you are only as good as the people around you. I have been blessed to have amazing people on my team over the years, and today I am honored to recognize one of the most exceptional people that I have had the pleasure to work with: Caitlyn Stephenson.

Caitlyn has been a key member of my team for over 18 years, starting out knocking doors with me and my wife Colleen. Over the years, she has worked as a scheduler in my congressional office, helped lead my first Senate campaign, and has been my chief of staff for the past 6 years.

When I first met Caitlyn, she had just recently graduated from Michigan State University. And as a native Michigander and as a very enthusiastic MSU Spartan, she already had two things going for her, but the tenacity and strong work ethic she brought to the job was quite apparent. I think much of that spirit can be attributed to two things: her Michigan roots, certainly, and also the incredible family who raised her.

Caitlyn's mother Jacquie grew up not far from where I did in Bloomfield, MI. Jacquie's parents Elizabeth Florence Murdoch and John Loprete met while working at Hudson's Department Store during the Christmas season in 1939. During World War II, John, who was a chemical engineer, worked on the Manhattan Project, and Elizabeth ended her career working at my local library