

who remain voiceless under despots and strongmen and lack the advocates and resources to detail their abuses and seek justice, whether through documentary film or newspaper stories.

That is why the Senate bill went beyond the particular case of Sergei Magnitsky. Much like Jackson-Vanik forced Budapest, Warsaw, and Moscow to allow citizens to freely emigrate or travel, I believe a global approach would help to deter future abuses throughout the world. I am puzzled and, frankly, disappointed that our House colleagues did not recognize our government needs tools that will allow it to stand up for these individuals regardless of where they are in the world.

Because some have elevated the subject of commerce above human rights, there is a view that it is more important to pass PNTR than a global Magnitsky bill; thus, we should settle for a Russia-only bill. While the Jackson-Vanik sanctions we are about to repeal have obviously outlived their usefulness, there is an urgent need for additional tools to protect the invisible around the world.

I hope our collective failure to give voice to their struggles, except in Russia, will not discourage these brave men and women, whether in Beijing, Tehran or elsewhere, from their continued efforts to root out corruption or expose rule of law abuses.

For now, at least, we address the problem in Russia. While I will not be here next year, I hope my colleagues in both the House and Senate will seek to uphold U.S. values and to do justice to Sergei Magnitsky and his legacy by passing a global bill sometime in the future.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, first, let me thank Senator KYL for his leadership on this issue. He knows I share his views on the global aspect of the legislation. I wish to thank him for his extraordinary leadership as we have been working this issue. We have worked it hard to try to get as far as we possibly could. He will be missed in the next Congress.

We will take up this cause again, but I wanted to thank Senator KYL for his commitment on this issue and finding a way that we could advance this bill to the floor. I do look forward to the day we will make this bill global.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. REID. As provided under the previous order, at 5 p.m., the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 676.

For the information of all Senators, we expect a rollcall vote on the nomination of Michael Shea, a district court judge for the District of Connecticut, at approximately 5:30.

We will go into executive session at 5 and move toward that.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 6156

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that no amendments be in order to H.R. 6156; that following the reporting of the bill, there be up to 5 hours of debate, equally divided by the two leaders or their designees during today's session; that on Thursday, December 6, at a time to be determined by the majority leader, after visiting with and consulting with the Republican leader, there be up to 10 minutes of debate, equally divided by the two leaders or their designees; and that upon the use or yielding back of time the Senate proceed to vote on passage of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The minority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, last week, Secretary Geithner brought up for the President an offer that was so not serious it makes me wonder what the point of it was. In light of that offer, I would like to see if our Democratic friends are willing to support it. It includes a \$2 trillion tax increase over 10 years, which would be the biggest real-dollar tax increase in U.S. history. It increases taxes on nearly 1 million small businesses and increases the taxes paid by family farmers and small businesses at death in the middle of a jobs crisis.

Most outrageous of all, it gives the President of the United States unilateral power—unilateral power—to raise the limit on the Federal credit card, the so-called debt ceiling, whenever he wants, for as much as he wants.

I don't think we should have to speculate how Democrats might feel about this. I think we should give them a chance to demonstrate for themselves how serious the President's plan was and how serious they are.

I would like to ask consent to offer an amendment to the Russia trade bill—this is Secretary Geithner's proposal right here—an amendment to the Russia trade bill that gives our friends on the other side of the aisle a chance to vote on this proposal Secretary Geithner brought up last Thursday. It gives the President's proposal to solve the fiscal cliff, as delivered by Secretary Geithner and outlined in the President's budget, an opportunity to be voted upon.

I should note I would be happy to have this vote right here or as an amendment to the next bill or as a stand-alone. It will not slow down what I hope is swift passage of PNTR for Russia. If this proposal was made in good faith, our friends on the other side, I am sure, would be happy to vote for it.

Let me just say I expect my good friend, the majority leader, to decline this chance to support the President and this laughable proposal because they know it couldn't even pass if it was sent to their majority.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. I reserve the right to object.

Just a minute ago, Mr. President, I moved to the Russia trade bill. The purpose of moving this bill is to protect American jobs. If we don't do this legislation, we will lose American jobs for sure and put American companies in even worse shape than they are with Chinese and European companies. So the question is really this: Are we going to get serious here and legislate or is this more of the obstructionism we have felt so much of during this last Congress? The answer to that is really obvious. The answer is yes. Are we going to continue the sort of political stunts the minority leader is trying to pull here and now?

On the substance, the Senate has passed a bill that will go a long way to address the fiscal cliff. It has already passed here. Last July the Senate passed a bill to continue tax cuts for 98 percent of all Americans and 90 percent of all American small businesses. If the Republican leader were serious about preventing us from going over the fiscal cliff, he would urge his colleague, the Speaker, to get the House to take up the Senate-passed bill now. There are Republicans who have already said that is the right thing to do. Conservatives, more moderate Republicans—we even had one Republican Senator today say she thinks that will happen and it should happen.

In the meantime, the Republican leader's request is just a stunt. But the election is over. It is time to get down to business. These pieces of paper he has—Secretary Geithner didn't bring that stack of stuff to me. It was a private meeting—a private meeting—trying to work something out with this very troublesome issue facing this country—the deficit, the debt. And this private meeting turned out to be a publicity stunt for the Republicans talking about what he had said in private.

So, Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Is there objection to the original request?

The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would add one comment about the consent I just offered. I think it would not be inaccurate to assert that the proposal the Secretary of the Treasury brought up last Thursday would not have passed the House when NANCY PELOSI was Speaker. This was an unserious proposal. And I can understand why my good friend the majority leader would rather not vote on it because I can't imagine that it would get many, if any, votes here in the Senate as well.