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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Creator and sustainer of our destinies, You have loved us through the seasons of our lives. You accept us as we are, infusing us with Your peace, and strengthening us with Your grace.

Bless our lawmakers. Give them the wisdom to follow Your leading, to live with courage, and to release the powers of goodness throughout our land. Lord, empower them to run and not be weary, to walk and not faint, as You keep them always in Your care.

We pray in Your merciful 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to the Ukraine act.

At 5:30 there will be a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to that important piece of legislation.

We have so much to do this work period and we have so much to do this week. I know I have said this on other occasions, and we have been able to work things out so it hasn't been necessary, but everyone should understand we have a lot to do and we may have to be in this weekend. If we are forced to go through all the procedural hoops to be able to complete the important Ukraine legislation, the important unemployment legislation, and the important SGR legislation, and setting it up so we can sometime next week get on minimum wage, we are going to have to be in this weekend. There is just no way around it, and everyone should understand that.

I know I will immediately start hearing from people: I have this event; I have that event. It is Monday at 2 p.m. in the afternoon. It is only 11 a.m. in the West. There is plenty of time to reschedule stuff or at least put it on hold, because we just have no choice. The only alternative is to take a week away from the break we are expecting to have. So everyone should understand that it is possible the Senate will need to work through the weekend to get all this work done.

UKRAINE

Mr. REID. The first item the Senate will consider, as I have already indicated, is a bipartisan package of aid to Ukraine. It includes sanctions against Russia for their untoward actions against their neighbor, Ukraine. As we prepare to debate this measure, I advise all Senators it is customary to show respect for the President—I am confident everyone will—when he is overseas. He is at a nuclear conference over there in Europe as we speak and it is an important meeting. President Putin is not there, but he has sent his Foreign Minister, as I understand it.

As we begin debate on this aid and sanctions package, I also hope the Republicans who stopped action on this legislation prior to the break have considered how their obstruction affects our great country's national security as well as the people in Ukraine, who are struggling so very much.

Since this was blocked by some Republicans, these important sanctions have not taken place. Russian lawmakers voted to annex Crimea and Russian forces have taken over, in many instances by force, military bases in Crimea. It is impossible to know whether events would have unfolded differently if the United States had responded to Russian aggression with a strong unified voice, which we did not do.

When a few extreme Republicans blocked action on this robust bill, which was reported out of the Foreign Relations Committee with a strong bipartisan vote, and then, when it came to the Senate floor, we sent a very weak message to the Russians by indicating we will work on this later; we won't do it now. In spite of what some Republicans did with their obstruction, President Obama moved forward with additional sanctions, and I am glad he did. The President is working closely with our European allies to impose the most effective sanctions possible. That is, in effect, what he is working on today.

In light of such clear-cut aggression against Ukraine, which continued as late as yesterday, it is difficult to believe Republicans blocked that package at all, but they did and it is almost unimaginable why they did this. They blocked aid to Ukraine in order to protect the anonymity of their big-time donors. They are saying: We will give the President the tools he needs to help the beleaguered people of Ukraine but only if—only if—the 501(c)4 work being done by the Internal Revenue Service and the Treasury Department is stopped.

That is pretty absurd, but that is the truth. It is all over the news today. So Republicans delayed this aid package for 10 days in order to protect the Koch brothers and billionaires just like them. That is very hard to believe, but it is true. Republicans objected to moving forward with this aid package in

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order to protect the ability of the Koch brothers and other GOP donors to hide behind shadowy front groups—groups that spend millions on political attack ads. This is the reason for holding up something that is so important to 46 million Ukrainians and important to our country. It is important for our security. But they objected to moving forward with this aid package unless, I repeat, we agreed to allow the Kochs and billionaires just like them to continue anonymously spending millions and millions of dollars trying to buy America's democracy. Hard to believe, but it is true.

I applaud so very much the ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee, the junior Senator from Tennessee, as well as the senior Senator from Arizona, JOHN MCCAIN, for their impassioned defense of this bill prior to the break. No one spoke more fluently and with more articulation than those two good men. They joined in defending bipartisan sanctions and the role of the International Monetary Fund in stabilizing Ukraine's economy and keeping Ukraine free.

The measure before the body includes vital loan guarantees, sanctions, and IMF funding. That is what they are holding up more than anything else. In the work we did on the omnibus, this was one of the last items we tried to get done—IMF funding. But even back then they would not agree to IMF funding unless Treasury stopped all work on looking at these secret shadowy groups. If the American people knew what they were doing—but they do not because they are hidden—these millions and millions they are spending on ads around the country are hidden behind phony organizations. We couldn't get that IMF funding in the omnibus because Republicans opposed IMF funding unless they got relief from the Treasury Department.

This legislation provides money for Ukraine—direct money. It is not very much. But if the money we in effect owe the International Monetary Fund was received by the IMF, they would be able to multiply that money many times over, what we put into this. As I recall, it is $600 million. This would allow the International Monetary Fund to go to other countries that participate in IMF funding and it would generate more than the $600 million. Ukraine needs this money.

We had Senator DURBIN on a Sunday show, Senator AYOTTE on a Sunday show speaking together about how this country needs our help. And without this money, the help we give will be just a pat on the back, not really much help. So I am very grateful to have the support of Democrats and Republicans—this is bipartisan—to move this aid package forward this evening.

I hope the obstruction will stop. I am hopeful and somewhat confident this legislation will receive the strong bipartisan support it deserves.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Like all Senators, I get lots and lots of letters and emails and phone calls each month. Some write, some call, pleading for additional unemployment benefits because they have been out of work and they can't find a job. The sad part about that is most of them are not kids. I mean that not in the negative sense. They are not young men and women. Many of them trying to find a job are in their fifties and sixties and they can't find work because they have been laid off because of the recession, depression—whatever we want to call it—and they can't find a job. They need this help.

A number of these individuals have been driven into poverty. One thing we have to do this work period is do something about unemployment compensation, and we are going to try to do that. We have a bipartisan bill, and I so much appreciate the Republicans who have stood up and agreed to help us with that.

HEALTH CARE

There are also people who call, and they are calling because they are happy. They have hope. They do that because for the first time in their adult lives they have health insurance or they have health insurance that is cheaper than they had last year. They have family members who are disabled and who can now get health insurance. They couldn't do it before because they were considered to have a preexisting disability. People who are disabled are really happy because they can get insurance for the first time in their lives or if they have had it in the past, it has been so outrageously costly that it was burdensome to them.

Four years ago yesterday, President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act into law, making quality health care available to millions and millions of Americans for the first time in years. I talked to the President's Chief of Staff the day we left for our work period at home. In the 2 days prior to that, 80,000 people each day had signed up. Tens of thousands of people every day are signing up. We are fast approaching 6 million. Some say we will get over that.

The mix of people who are signing up is good. It is a good mix. We have a lot of young people. There was a piece on public radio this morning of a young man 21 years old who never had insurance before but he said: You know, I need insurance, so I am going to buy some insurance. And it is really very inexpensive.

Connecticut has such an unusual experience. They have two stores set up for people to come in and get their health insurance, and they have had thousands of people who have done that. Some people who aren't very computer literate have been able to go in and talk to somebody and sign up. They had the example of one woman who had struggled on the computer. She didn't know how to use it very well. She came in, and she saves $300 a month for her health care. So that is what Connecticut has done, but there are many messages of hope out there.

Families have college-aged children who have stayed on their parents' health plans. Seniors have saved hundreds of dollars on their prescriptions because we are filling the doughnut hole.

I have heard from entrepreneurs who finally—finally—can do what they want to do, which is go out and start a business of their own. They are entrepreneurs who have been locked into their jobs, but now they can leave. They are not locked into jobs to keep their health insurance; they can have health insurance on their own; they can strike out on their own without the fear of losing their health insurance. Women are benefiting from free preventive care, and people with preexisting conditions, which I have talked about, have signed up for health insurance for the first time. One lifelong Republican called recently to say that he and his son signed up for affordable insurance and saw the doctor for the first time in years. They had been without health insurance because of preexisting conditions they both have. But now that his insurance company can no longer discriminate against him or his son, they are getting the lifesaving care they need and deserve. In the long run, this saves huge amounts of money for us as a society.

Across the country, families such as the one I just mentioned have been freed from the fear of going bankrupt or reaching an arbitrary lifetime cap if they get sick. The Affordable Care Act puts patients in charge of their own health care decisions. There are many others on the other side of the aisle who don't want this law to work. We are approaching 13 million people, right as we speak, who have insurance now—or are using the benefits of this would be a better way to say it. Six million people have signed up, and 3 million people are on their parents' health insurance because of this law. We have at least 5 million or maybe more who are there because of Medicaid.

This is wonderful. These people have health care. It is good for our country. I can't imagine what the Republicans expect done—just to say, OK, get rid of all insurance we have? They keep talking about repealing this bill. What are they talking about? They have had about 60 votes to repeal it. It doesn't work, and all the polling—which they don't talk about—is now saying: I am glad we have this. There are some who don't like the bill because they don't think it is strong enough.

All the polls are somewhat misleading that the Republicans have been throwing around here, but they are still spending millions of dollars on disingenuous ads distorting the truth about the Affordable Care Act and how it is benefiting millions of Americans. We fought hard 4 years ago to pass this landmark expansion of quality, affordable health care, and we will fight just as hard to make sure the law works for every American family.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2148, H.R. 3474, AND H.R. 3979

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am told there are three bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KAINE). The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2148) to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes;

A bill (H.R. 3474) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of the employer mandate under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act;

A bill (H.R. 3979) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to these three bills.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bills will be placed on the calendar.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

SUPPORT FOR THE SOVEREIGNTY, INTEGRITY, DEMOCRACY, AND ECONOMIC STABILITY OF UKRAINE ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2124, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 329, S. 2124, a bill to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed as if in morning business.

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

RECOMMENDING GEOFFREY CRAWFORD

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, in Vermont we have been fortunate that for almost two decades Judge William Sessions has served with distinction as a Federal judge for the District of Vermont. In January, Judge Sessions announced that he would take senior status later this year. In response to this news, the Vermont Bar Association, Senator SANDERS, and I, each appointed three members to the Judicial Nominating Commission.

The commission, as one can imagine, received many applications for this district court vacancy. It interviewed and vetted seven finalists, and then recommended to us the two candidates who garnered unanimous support.

I spent hours interviewing them last week in Vermont, and today I am recommending that the President nominate Geoffrey Crawford, a recently-appointed justice from Vermont's highest court. I talked to him at great length last week and again at length this morning. I am very comfortable in forwarding his name to President Obama, as I now have.

Justice Crawford is an experienced and well-respected jurist. He is known for his modesty and humanity, notwithstanding his elite educational background and intellectual heft. He was a successful plaintiffs' attorney before he was appointed to the Vermont Superior Court in 2002.

Then-Judge Crawford served on the superior court in our State for more than a decade, earning a reputation for his skill in working with juries and handling a wide variety of litigation. Attorneys who have appeared before him, on either side, have found him to be an engaged and careful jurist who treats everyone in the courtroom with respect. I have talked with a number of those lawyers, and they speak of his respect and abilities.

As a lawyer, I wanted to hear this, and although I did not know Justice Crawford before interviewing him for this vacancy, the Vermont legal community repeatedly told me of his intelligence, warmth, and unwavering commitment to the highest calling of public service.

When I met Justice Crawford, I found him to be well deserving of these accolades, and I was impressed by his thoughtfulness and pragmatic approach to the law, as was the chief counsel of the Judiciary Committee, Kristine Lucius, and the state director of my Vermont offices, John Tracy.

I am confident that Justice Crawford will make an excellent Federal district court judge and I hope the President will nominate him soon for the vacancy on Vermont's Federal district court.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL RICHARD CODY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is my honor today to pay tribute to a fellow native of Montpelier, VT, GEN Richard Cody. General Cody is going to be honored next month—and deservedly so—by his alma mater, Montpelier High School.

Following his graduation from Montpelier High School, General Cody attended and graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. This was the launch of an outstanding U.S. Army career which took him all over our country and world and culminated in his service from 2004 to 2008 as Vice Chief of Staff of the Army. I am really proud to share a hometown with such a distinguished member of our military. I remember how proud Marcelle and I were of General Cody on the day of his retirement ceremony, with full honors, here in Washington.

The Codys and the Leahys go back decades in Montpelier and have always been friends. General Cody, his siblings, and parents have been among the business and civic leaders in that city for as long as I can remember, and they have always shown the best of true Vermont values. The General brought those values of hard work, patriotism, and especially integrity to his military career, and ended that career as the best example a soldier could have. Even the Secretary of Defense was there for the retirement ceremony to honor him.

I think of this man who would often march from his quarters in Virginia to the Pentagon carrying a military pack just to remind himself of what soldiers on the front line were doing. I have known many in the military—from privates to generals. No one has ranked higher in my esteem than General Dick Cody. He set an example for the whole country.

No salute to a member of the military would be complete without recognizing the family beside the man. Dick's wife, Vicki, and his sons Clint and Tyler, sacrificed much through his service to our country. In fact, Clint and Tyler followed in their father's footsteps, both as members of the Army, and served as helicopter pilots during several combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. I am told one flew the same helicopter his father had flown.

In closing, I would like to thank the Montpelier High School Boosters Club, and the citizens of Montpelier, for honoring General Cody. There is no more deserving alumnus, and I am proud to call him a friend.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COATS. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, when the Senate last met, I introduced, together with Senator DURBIN, a resolution regarding our response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine. That resolution, which received unanimous support in the Senate, called for a number of specific steps to punish and isolate Russia for its actions.

Among these steps we called upon President Obama to impose sanctions on officials of the Russian Federation who are most responsible for the invasion of the Crimean region. I am pleased with recent announcements by the White House which demonstrate that the President has begun the process of sanctioning some of these individuals, although I had hoped the numbers sanctioned would be far greater.

I also note that today the President is in the Netherlands discussing with

our European allies and partners the need for further steps. I trust and hope he will be successful in reaching a firm consensus with our allies and friends to define a strong united response to Russian aggression.

Further, I also welcome such provisions in the legislation that is now pending in the Senate, the Support for the Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act of 2014, which I trust and hope the Senate will be acting on beginning this evening and perhaps extending into this week.

I would note time is somewhat of the essence. If we are going to send a message to Russia, certainly we don't want to be bogged down in internal delay over nonrelated or only slightly related issues. In fact, that is why Senator DURBIN and I moved our provisions forward before the Senate adjourned for the break, simply to make sure there was a united, bipartisan Senate unanimously approved agreement on 15 measures that would get the message to Vladimir Putin and the Russians that we take this very seriously.

The legislation we will be dealing with also sanctions the Russians responsible for this recent aggression by prohibiting them from coming to the United States and freezing their assets in America. Our European allies have done likewise, and together we have begun to respond to Russia's outrageous behavior.

However, it is my strong belief that much more needs to be done. We and our European allies must recognize the enormity of Putin's crime as he rejects all modern standards of responsible international behavior and tramples on the sanctity of the territorial borders so vital to the stability of the postwar order.

The international response must be more vigorous if we are to prove that Putin's behavior is unacceptable and cannot be repeated. A strong response now is the best way to reassure our allies and friends who are precariously placed on Russia's borders that this outrage must be stopped, reversed, and ended. Conversely, to do little more than prevent a handful of Russian officials traveling abroad will show Putin and his cronies that in the end we actually do not mean what we say.

Again, the international response needs to be, has to be, much more vigorous if we are to prove that we stand together and united, one voice, claiming that the behavior of President Putin is unacceptable and cannot be repeated.

When Senator DURBIN and I introduced our prior resolution on this subject, we signaled our willingness to work with the administration to craft more punishing sanctions, including economic sanctions possibly targeting key sectors of the Russian economy, and I believe many of us here in the Senate on both sides of the aisle want to do more. I have suggested a range of provisions that would reduce Russia's oil and gas exports—which contribute a very significant amount to their economy and are therefore very dependent—I hope the President is discussing those very measures in Europe with our partners as we speak.

We are all aware that sanctioning key Russian economic activities carries the possibility that our economic interests and those of our European allies could be affected at the same time. While this is reason for us to be thoughtful in terms of how we move forward, it is not a reason for inaction. It should not be the basis for our standing by and watching what is happening and simply saying: Well, this could potentially affect us economically back at home and therefore excuse the actions and probably enable further actions by our Russian adversary in this case.

In the end, unpunished, unconstrained, rampant Russian territorial expansion will threaten us all to a much greater extent. Doing something now could prevent something much worse later. Standing up now could prevent something much more serious in terms of what we might have to do later. Sound policy decisions must reflect full assessments of all eventual consequences, and that includes a clear picture of what the world will look like if illegal, forceful annexation of a neighbor's territory is ignored or met only with a rap on the knuckles.

I continue to believe we can and must do more to isolate Russia. This includes, for example, explicitly expelling Russia from the G8—not temporarily but explicitly expelling them and ending the NATO-Russia Council.

In addition, I am proposing today a specific economic sanction that will harm Russian interests in a serious way and, hopefully, with minimal or no damage to our own. I am introducing an amendment to Ukraine aid bill and I trust it will find broad bipartisan support. The purpose of this amendment is to sanction Russia's Rosoboronexport, the sole state agency for export of Russian weapon systems and defense-related goods. This is a state corporation exclusively entitled to export the entire range of Russian armaments officially allowed for export. It was set up for that purpose. It was set up by President Putin. It is a state-owned enterprise and its business is sending Russian arms around the world—some to very bad actors.

Many of our colleagues here in the Senate know of this arms export agency because of Russia's continuing supply of arms to Assad's regime in Syria. Many here have repeatedly called on the administration to stop all cooperation with Rosoboronexport for that reason. We now have a new, broader reason for ending all cooperation with this export agency of Russia. To take steps to meaningfully obstruct that agency's work and the income it provides the Russian state will become the most effective ways we have of demonstrating our condemnation of Russian action by force of arms.

Let me briefly explain my amendment. It does three things: First, it prohibits the U.S. Government from doing any business with this Russian agency by prohibiting future contracts and canceling past contracts.

It is true the recent National Defense Authorization Act, which I supported, also includes similar language. But that act includes a waiver authority and another work-around provision the Defense Department has been using in order to buy Russian helicopters for Afghanistan. This practice has met with objection. It was objectionable when it began and it became more objectionable as the Russians continued to supply Assad. Now, based on what they have done in Crimea, it should be entirely unacceptable.

Also, I just learned this morning that President Karzai announced his support for the Russian annexation of Crimea and approval of Russian actions, which makes our purchase of Russian weapons for the Karzai regime even more outrageous. After all we have done to support President Karzai and the Afghans with U.S. tax dollars and the lives and injuries to U.S. and coalition soldiers—after all we have done over a decade of time—President Karzai reaches out and publicly supports the Russian action, contrary to ours. Russia is the nation which pillaged Afghanistan for a decade. It is beyond belief that President Karzai can support, along with countries such as Syria and Venezuela—haven't heard from Cuba yet, but probably will—the Russian action when we are there trying to save his hide not only with our tax dollars but with our soldiers' lives.

So my amendment takes away this waiver and would put a complete end to Karzai's business dealings with the Russians. Karzai will have to buy his Russian helicopters with his own money, not ours.

Secondly, I propose this amendment will prohibit contracts with any domestic or foreign company that cooperates with Rosoboronexport in the design, manufacture, or military development of military equipment. Other types of business dealings with the corporation for nonmilitary activities would not be affected. We are going after the military exports, many of which go to some of our sworn enemies.

Third, I propose to authorize the President to deduct from our foreign assistance programs any amount that a foreign state recipient spends on Russian weapons through Rosoboronexport. These deductions would be made from the Economic Support Fund and security assistance accounts but would not affect other aid programs. The President would be authorized to reprogram such funds for use elsewhere subject to congressional notification.

If a USAID recipient is tempted to use some of our money to buy Russian weapons, they need to know we would deduct that amount from our assistance programs. They can buy Russian

weapons on their own dime, not on our dime.

Taken together, I believe these proposals would be a very useful addition to the Ukraine aid act and give it the additional teeth it needs. This amendment would harm the Russian arms industry, the Russian economy, Russian prestige, and Putin's standing in the world. That ought to be our goal. Whether it is my amendment, any other amendment, or whether it is the act we will be debating, it needs to harm the Russian arms industry, the Russian energy portion of the economy, Russian prestige, and Putin's standing in the world.

This amendment will serve as a concrete and immediate response to the illegal invasion perpetrated by the Russian Federation. I urge the majority leader to permit a full debate, an up-or-down vote on my amendment, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I rise today to support the Ukraine assistance package, which will be on the floor for a vote later this evening. I want to thank the leadership of Senator MENENDEZ and all the great work Senator CORKER has put into this bill. I was proud to help put it together, along with Senators JOHNSON, MCCAIN, and many others who were part of our debate in the Foreign Relations Committee.

I come to the floor, as I am sure others have and will over the course of this afternoon, to talk about the vital importance of a big bipartisan vote in favor of this legislation this evening.

Having just come from Ukraine—I was there this last weekend with a number of my colleagues, and it was my second trip to Kiev in the last 3 months—I can tell you they are awaiting a very strong signal of support from the U.S. Congress that will send a message we are going to stand together with our Ukrainian brothers and sisters as they engage in this epic battle for their independence, for their freedom, and for their sovereignty.

I won't belabor the underlying details of the bill, but the three components of the legislation are all equally important to Ukraine. We heard support for all three of these pieces while we were there over this last weekend.

First and foremost, clearly, we have to deliver on our promise of economic aid. There is $1 billion of loan guarantees in this bill, and it is contingent upon the signing of a new agreement with the IMF, but it will also leverage about $15 billion in funds from Europe. This is important because even before this crisis precipitated by the Russian invasion of Crimea, Ukraine's economy was incredibly fragile, and this international crisis has done nothing but to further weaken the country.

Ukrainians have a new government—one they have faith in, one they can believe in—that will finally bring an end to the corruption which has been rife throughout the Ukrainian Government over the past decade. But this new government will be undermined by an economic crisis that will occur, guaranteed, unless the United States steps up and provides this assistance. But we can't do it alone, and so that is why the second component of this bill would allow the United States to agree to a set of IMF reforms that would dramatically increase the amount of funding the IMF has to provide countries in crisis, such as Ukraine.

Every other IMF member has signed on to these reforms except for the United States, and it has been largely due to the intransigence of this body that the United States stands on the sidelines. Some people have categorized the IMF reform component of this bill as superfluous, as a political add-on. That couldn't be further from the truth. When we were meeting with Ukrainian officials in this new government last weekend, they specifically asked that we pass the IMF reforms, because they know the only way they get an assistance package that is in the neighborhood of $20 billion or $30 billion is through the IMF. And the IMF will be much more likely able to provide that if the United States steps up and agrees to these reforms.

Lastly, we need to send a strong, clear message to Russia there are consequences for their actions in Crimea. By giving the President the authorization to move forward on a broad range of sanctions, we will show that Putin was wrong when he calculated that a march into Crimea would come at little to no cost to Russia.

I want to talk for a minute about what this really tells us about the status of Russia in the region and in the world. I am sure my other colleagues will come down to talk about the importance of sanctions and how they may change the calculuses being made in Russia and Moscow today.

I have watched the media portray the events of the last couple of weeks as some sign of Russian strength. To me, this isn't a sign of Russian strength, this is a sign of Russian weakness.

Putin has designs for reestablishing some sense of the old Soviet empire by reasserting control over what Putin calls the near abroad, which are the former Soviet republics and Soviet satellite states. His dream of reestablishing the Soviet empire fell apart the day President Yanukovych fled Kiev.

Ukraine is the crown jewel of the near abroad. As Putin tried to recreate that empire under the guise of something called the customs union, he knew he couldn't do it without the second biggest country in Europe bordering on Russia—Ukraine. His invasion of Crimea was a panicked reaction to this new reality—a Ukraine now oriented toward the European Union.

So today, I think it is important to understand the position Putin is in. He has made a mess for the international community to try to clean up through his invasion of Crimea.

Crimea represents 2 million people in a country of 45 million, and 90 percent of Ukraine has a government in Kiev which just signed an association agreement with the European Union. Russia's economy is going to hemorrhage if he continues the occupation of Crimea through a broad-based set of international sanctions. He has become a pariah in the world community.

I agree with my colleague from Indiana: We shouldn't just be talking about removing Russia from the G8; we should take Russia out of the G8 and make it completely clear to them that they don't have a place at the international table along with countries such as the United States, France, Germany, and England if they behave in this way.

The bill we are debating today will give the President and new government in Kiev tools with which to try to address and perhaps end this crisis. But it is important to remember that this is not about reestablishing the Cold War. The world is oriented along paradigms that have nothing to do with who is with the United States and who is with Russia. This panicked invasion of Crimea, while rightly occupying the headlines on a nightly basis, is a display of Russia's weak position in the region and the world after the failure of their puppet government in Kiev to survive.

Lastly, I will talk about the broader history, both looking in the past but also looking to the future, we may miss when we concentrate on an hour-by-hour basis on the crisis at hand.

Having had the opportunity to visit Kiev a few times in the past several months, I have had the opportunity to learn a little bit about the history of the place and of the people. There is a wonderful cathedral in Kiev called the Church of St. Sophia. It is absolutely stunningly beautiful. It was built by Ukraine's greatest leader, Yaroslav the Wise. He presided over an empire which was at the time called Kievan Rus. Kievan Rus was essentially the hub of trading on the Eurasian continent. It took goods from the east and transported them to the west. It took goods from the Scandinavian countries and transported them down to the Mediterranean. Everything ran through the territory of Kievan Rus. It speaks to Ukraine's past but also to its future.

They have been set up with a false choice within the crisis of the last several months: Join the European Union or stay aligned with Russia. But what we know is that Kiev historically has stood at the crossroads—not just east and west but of east and west and north and south. This is Ukraine's past, but it is also going to be Ukraine's future.

While we try to deal today with a Russia run by a leader whose foreign policy seems dictated by a desire to poke a stick in the eye of the United States, I ultimately think viewing the

forest through the trees also means acknowledging that Russia's future ultimately, in a post-Putin era, is about integration with Europe and integration with the West as well. Frankly, this is the direction Russia was heading until Putin took power.

The conversation about how we realize that ultimate paradigm is a conversation for another day. But when Senator MCCAIN and I went to Kiev in December and stood on the stage speaking to a million Ukrainians who had come down to the square to protest the current government, they were there to talk about one concept: dignity. For some it was about Europe, for some it was about corruption, and for some it was about the brutal violence on the square displayed by Yanukovych. For most people, they wanted to restore dignity to their lives, and what dignity really is about in the end is the ability to choose for yourself what your future is. This is why we are here to support Ukraine.

No country—the United States, the Russian Federation, Germany—should dictate to the Ukrainians what their future should be. That is why, in the wake of the invasion, in the wake of years of economic manipulation from Russia, we are going to extend a firm hand to the Ukrainians with an assistance package and a message of economic consequences to Russia.

The world we envision ultimately is one not only where Ukraine gets to go back to its historical routes and draw from east and west but one in which Russia realizes that their economic salvation lies not in setting up some new Cold War but in fully integrating themselves, their economy, and their political institutions not only with countries such as Ukraine, not only with the nations of the EU, but beyond to American shores as well. This is the future.

But that reality will never exist for the young nation of Ukraine unless it survives this moment. And we can send a strong message this evening that this body stands with that future for this young nation of Ukraine by supporting the package before us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, while I realize Members of this body are very concerned about the situation in the Ukraine today and we are focused on the crisis happening there, I wish to take a few minutes to discuss two bills I have recently introduced that deal with reforms to the Internal Revenue Service.

As the Federal agency tasked with administering the U.S. Tax Code, the IRS has extraordinary influence on the lives of Americans from all walks of life and all points of view. Citizens have the absolute right to expect the IRS to be free from political influence, with taxpayers treated fairly and enforcement carried out in an unbiased manner. Unfortunately, we have learned our expectations sometimes are very different from reality.

In early 2013 the IRS acknowledged a history of targeting politically active groups as some of these groups sought tax-exempt status. This practice first involved flagging groups concerned about government spending and debt. Ironically, the targeting came at a time when poll after poll indicated that the Federal Government's out-of-control spending and our $17 trillion debt were top concerns for all Americans, and from my experience, they are the top concerns for Nebraskans as well.

Despite these legitimate concerns and the patriotic desire of Americans to effect change in government, the IRS worked to impede these organizations from full participation in our democratic process. To do so, the IRS dragged its feet and slow-walked applications for tax-exempt status, asking questions that weren't necessary, including questions regarding political beliefs. That is why I recently introduced S. 2043, the Stop IRS Overreach Act. This bill states that the IRS shall not ask any taxpayer any question regarding their religious, political, or social beliefs. This is a pretty straightforward concept, and it is an American concept. It shouldn't matter who you are or what you believe—we should all be treated equally before the law.

Given the recent behavior of the IRS, it appears this legislation is necessary. I believe this measure should enjoy support from both parties. It is worth noting that the legislation passed the House of Representatives on a voice vote.

American taxpayers are also frustrated with the lack of responsiveness from the IRS. Every single year taxpayers and their accountants write the IRS asking for additional information regarding their taxes. Often, the response from the IRS is silence—nothing but silence.

So taxpayers wonder: Did they even get my question? Did they get my letter? Are they going to answer my question?

Silence. No answer.

The IRS currently is not required to respond to taxpayer communication. We all know, though, that the inverse is true—taxpayers are compelled to respond when the IRS requests any information. This is a double standard which is not fair.

My bill, S. 2044, would require the IRS to respond to communication from any taxpayer within 30 days of receiving such communication. This way taxpayers will at least know that the IRS is not asleep at the switch and that they have received their letter.

My bill would also make two other significant changes to the IRS: First, it would require the agency to notify a taxpayer if the agency discloses that person's information to another government entity. Current law doesn't require such disclosure. Next, the legislation would require that when the IRS begins an audit on any individual taxpayer, the audit and any tax assessed with the audit must be completed within 1 year. The window for these painstaking audits can't be open forever. The uncertainty adversely impacts families, as these audits currently can be held up for years, with the taxpayers never quite sure if the tax is going to be assessed and when it is going to be assessed.

The House approved identical legislation by a voice vote.

These two bills are straightforward. They make simple but important changes to the way the IRS operates. Making these changes will help Americans all across our country. I urge my fellow Senators on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Senator from Michigan.

NATURAL GAS

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, one of the true bright spots in our economy right now has been, and continues to be, manufacturing. Manufacturing jobs have been on the rise. We have over 12 million Americans who are now employed with good-paying jobs in the manufacturing sector. Many of them are in my own great State of Michigan.

This renaissance in the kind of good-paying jobs that built the middle class of this country is being powered in a significant way by American natural gas. More than $100 billion in investments, in more than 120 different manufacturing projects, is being fueled by abundant, affordable American natural gas. Thanks to American natural gas, the people in our country have a great new opportunity to go to work, have a good-paying job, and support their families.

Our country is truly blessed with this natural resource. It is critical that we continue to put our American natural gas to work so we can create American jobs, which is why I am confused and concerned by those who are rushing to send this American resource overseas without a careful review of the impact this will have on the costs to our manufacturers, our jobs, and our families.

I am not opposed to exporting some of our natural gas as part of a balanced, well-thought-out plan. A rush to approve every export facility request immediately is not wise. It is not wise for our economy or our people when we know that increased natural gas is needed here at home.

People need jobs in America. We have about 10 million people out of work. We have an awful lot of people who need a job. Good-paying jobs in manufacturing

can and will be part of their future if we manage our natural gas resources the right way. It is critical for America that we get this right. We need to export our products, not our jobs, and that is the debate I believe we should be having.

Low-cost natural gas is critical to our Nation's ability to create manufacturing jobs. It is critical. If we start exporting too much of our natural gas without monitoring or evaluating the impact over time, we may be giving up a real advantage we have right now for creating jobs and bringing jobs home from other countries.

What do we hear from a lot of businesses that are making decisions to bring jobs home? They talk about low-energy costs. We don't want to give that up as an advantage for America as we compete in a global economy. Also, if increased exports raise prices to the same level as global oil prices—and obviously some folks would like to see that happen for their own interests—American families will be hit with even higher energy costs at home, and that doesn't make any sense either. Exporting more American natural gas simply doesn't add up.

A study last month by Charles River Associates found that using our own low-cost natural gas to increase American manufacturing is twice as valuable to our economy and creates eight times as many jobs as sending this important American resource overseas. Let me say that again: Using our own low-cost natural gas to increase American manufacturing output is twice as valuable to our American economy and creates eight times as many jobs as exporting this important American resource overseas.

I am particularly dismayed that some people are using the very serious crisis in Ukraine as an excuse to rush through new projects to export our natural gas.

Last week I met with members of the Ukrainian community in Detroit. They are deeply concerned about what is happening. This is personal for them. They have family and friends in Ukraine. This crisis should not be used by those in the oil and gas industry to rush through actions that may be good for them in the long run. It certainly will not be good for some people in the short run. Anything that is approved now will take way too long before it has any impact in Ukraine. Raising prices may be good for some in the long run, but it will not be good for American manufacturers. It is not good if the whole idea is to create American jobs here at home, and it is not good for middle-class families.

I want to be very clear: I am extremely concerned about what is happening in Ukraine. We must stand with the people of Ukraine and our allies in Europe against the outrageous actions of Russia and President Putin. This crisis is very serious and requires a serious response by the Senate. I know colleagues on both sides of the aisle care deeply about this issue. I hope and I assume we will pass a package to help Ukraine as soon as possible.

Again, this crisis should not be used as an excuse to shortcut the permit process or the thoughtful evaluation that I know the Department of Energy is committed to doing to make sure we get this right. This crisis should not be used to rush through new natural gas export facilities that may undercut our effort to create good-paying jobs here at home.

The Department of Energy has already agreed to permit six liquefied natural gas LNG export facilities that will export over 9 billion cubic feet of LNG every day—and that is not counting the other 30 applications that have been approved for export to countries we have free trade agreements with. I am not suggesting that should not have been done; I have not opposed that. But we better be careful on how we move forward and how we evaluate the impact on our economy.

As we all know, LNG export facilities take years to build. We could approve permits for 100 new LNG facilities tomorrow, and unfortunately it would do nothing to address the crisis in Ukraine and potential supply disruptions to our other important allies in Western Europe.

Here is what I am most concerned about: We all know that gas prices are decided by the global marketplace. Prices are high in Asia right now. We don't have the existing infrastructure to get natural gas to Ukraine. The gas in the export facilities that are rushed through are very likely to go to Asia—very likely to go to China.

Should American natural gas be used to lower prices and create jobs in China or in other parts of Asia or should we be using low-cost natural gas to create jobs right here at home? I hope we can all agree on the answer to that question.

Rushing through more natural gas export facilities, unfortunately, would not help Ukraine. However, it could have a negative effect on our own economy in the long run. Increasing exports would reduce our supply here at home and raise consumer prices, and we all know how devastating that would be for our families. Higher prices for natural gas means it will cost more to cook your dinner, heat your home, and power your small business.

The recent propane shortages and dramatic price spikes we saw in States across the country should raise a red flag for everybody. We simply cannot afford to export too much natural gas too fast without truly understanding the impact on our own jobs and families. Plus, sending so much of our natural gas abroad will neutralize the competitive advantage we have right now for cheap and abundant fuel. We have an advantage right now, and we need to keep that advantage.

My concern is that we would be giving the big oil companies a boost because there would be higher prices for natural gas which would keep oil as a viable alternative because there would not be the advantage of natural gas anymore if we go to the global marketplace and all the prices go up.

In the end, the people of Ukraine and our allies who need our help would not be receiving it. Our own manufacturers, businesses, and families would not be receiving it. Instead, it would be going to the oil companies.

Shame on us if we squander the opportunities that low-cost, abundant natural gas resources offer our country. I believe we need to be smart in how we manage our resources.

Again, I am not opposed to exports. It is a question of a balance. It is a question of thinking it through in a thoughtful way and having an American plan where we are balancing out part exports, part keeping natural gas here at home, and making sure our manufacturers have the edge in a global economy because they have lower cost energy. We need to make sure we are bringing jobs back from overseas because of lower cost energy. We need to make sure our families have low-cost fuel and other energy assistance.

We need to be smart at this point in time about our resources. We have the opportunity, I believe, to find the right balance that allows us to both benefit from some exports and benefit from the resources by creating jobs here at home. Our manufacturers are families, the middle class of this country, the folks trying to hold on, folks trying to get into the middle class who know manufacturing jobs are a part of the way of doing that. They are counting on us. Our economy is counting on the fact that we will be smart about the way we make decisions about our natural resources. Right now with natural gas we have the opportunity not only for the States that have it to do well by exploration and extraction but by leveraging that as we look at the opportunities for manufacturing; leveraging our own resources, which we are told will give us eight times more in benefit in terms of jobs than just having our natural resources in America exported around the globe and the prices floating up to the higher prices of oil.

I thank the Chair. We are going to have a lot of discussion and debate on this issue going forward. I look forward to that. I think this is an opportunity for us to have an American plan on manufacturing, with American low-cost energy, to be able to jump-start our economy moving forward.

I thank the Chair and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. McCAIN. Madam President, I have a parliamentary inquiry: What is the business before the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is considering the motion to proceed to S. 2124, the Ukraine aid bill.

Mr. McCAIN. I thank the Presiding Officer.

I urge my colleagues to not only vote for this particular measure but also to

vote to pass as soon as possible the bill before the Senate that was reported out by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, by a vote of 14 to 4, before we went into recess. Obviously, it is intended to be an opening response—a beginning response—to the Russian aggression in Ukraine; specifically now occupying and absorbing Crimea into Russia, an act of aggression the likes of which has not been seen in a long time.

In addition, now additional pressures are being put on the Ukrainian Government as we speak, such as raising the price of gas, canceling Ukraine special price discounts. Also, oil deliveries are slow, border crossings for the delivery of trade have been closed, and the dirty tricks go on from the old KGB colonel Vladimir Putin.

This act is relatively mild. It will provide loan guarantees which are badly needed. Now the Ukrainian economy is under even greater pressure and greater difficulty, given the actions taken by Vladimir Putin, and it would stabilize the Ukrainian economy. It is just a beginning, but it is a strong signal of support by the United States for this fledgling Ukrainian democracy.

The IMF reforms are considered somewhat controversial by some of my colleagues, but the IMF reforms are not the reason this legislation is before us. The reason the legislation is before us is because Vladimir Putin has now absorbed Crimea into Russia. I predicted that when the Ukrainian Government became a government of the people and threw out Yanukovych, Putin would do exactly that because of his view of the need to have Sevastopol, the base on the Black Sea, in order to have access to the Mediterranean, without which his visions and view of the Russian empire would be threatened.

Right now the President of the United States is in Europe. I hope he is leading in Europe rather than just consulting in Europe. By the way, a comment by the President—I still don't quite get it—that there would not be a military excursion in Ukraine—I have never heard that word used in regard to military action. But the most important thing, in my view, is to pass this legislation as soon as possible. We can fight about other less important issues later on. We need to send a strong signal to the people of Ukraine who are watching us as we speak and as we vote today, as to whether we are going to come to their assistance and at least take some small measures to punish Vladimir Putin. If we get hung up for another week or another who knows how many hours because of our failure to act, in my view, it sends exactly the wrong signals.

I also speak again in the strongest terms that we need to send military assistance to this country. We need to help them defend themselves. Russian troops are amassed on the border of Eastern Ukraine as we speak. I don't know whether Vladimir Putin will go into Eastern Ukraine. I did predict he would go into Crimea. Now I believe he is watching carefully for the reaction of the West, led by the United States of America, as to how we are going to assist Ukraine, how we are going to prevent or at least make the cost of further encroachment into Ukrainian territory a very expensive one.

We have military assistance programs with a myriad of nations, and we should be giving them the weapons they need to defend themselves. I am talking about defensive weaponry. It is shameful for us not to do so.

I see my colleague from Illinois with whom I was privileged and proud to travel to Ukraine, a man who understands these issues as well or better than anyone in this body and one who represents thousands and thousands and thousands of Ukrainian Americans whom I know he has met with and who are deeply concerned.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. McCAIN. I am glad to yield.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I wish to say through the Chair it was an honor to join my colleague Senator McCAIN in a whirlwind trip to Ukraine: 48 hours, maybe 6 extra to spare; 2 full days of working, meeting every leader at every level of government there and sensing their concern over the pending so-called referendum on Crimea and what Russia will do next. The Senator from Arizona and I stand together in a bipartisan fashion, urging the passage of this resolution as quickly as possible.

I just left the phone—the reason I came to the floor, I say to the Senator from Arizona, I was on the phone with the Ambassador of Ukraine and we were talking about the situation there, and I said: Senator McCAIN is on the floor and I would like to go down and say a word.

He said the people of Ukraine are watching what we are doing. They are watching what Congress and the United States are going to do.

There are some differences between us. There are some differences between the parties. There comes a moment—and there always has, at least in the past—where we decide we are going to stand together as a nation, particularly when it comes to issues of foreign policy. This resolution doesn't address every issue the Senator from Arizona has raised, but it certainly addresses some key issues on which the Senator and I both agree. We both voted for this in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and we both want to see this move. The sooner the better.

I wish to salute my colleague, the Senator from Arizona, for returning to the Maidan, that area in Kiev where 103 Ukrainians lost their lives demonstrating against the former government and asking for change. Our experience together, visiting that country with a delegation of eight Senators, I hope sent a strong message: There is bipartisan support for Ukraine and we will not tolerate Putin's aggression at the expense of innocent people.

Mr. McCAIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to engage in a colloquy with the Senator from Illinois.

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

Mr. McCAIN. I ask my friend: Isn't it true the people of Ukraine are watching in a way that is hard for them to understand—before an empty Chamber. But, more importantly, whether we act and act quickly, that signal to them as they face this additional Russian aggression, maybe not military aggression but already borders have been closed, the price of their energy has been raised—in other words, Putin is putting more and more pressure on them. They look to us. Isn't it a fact they will not quite understand if we go another several days because of some additional issue that does not affect whether we are coming to their assistance, I ask my friend.

Mr. DURBIN. Through the Chair, I couldn't agree more. I think it is significant that when the new Prime Minister of Ukraine was scheduling his first trip outside of the country, where did he come? Here, Washington, DC. With whom did he meet? The President and the leaders. We sat together with him in a room downstairs—the Senate Foreign Relations Committee room. He came here because he wanted to bring the message to us of what he feared would happen if Putin's aggression went forward, and he wanted us to bring the message to the world that the United States stood by him. How can we possibly explain to these people who are worried about the existence and survival of their Nation that we got tied up in some political squabble between the House and the Senate and the two political parties? It is important for us to move and move quickly.

The Senator from Arizona understands this as well or better than most. Many of us have come from countries which were once under the yoke of the Soviets and we remember full well what it took to finally get independence and democracy. Today, Vladimir Putin is fighting to save a failing Soviet franchise, and where he can't win the hearts and minds of neighboring nations, he instead uses masked gunmen, troops, barbed wire, and energy extortion. That is how he works. He is not winning this battle, but he is saying to the world: The only way I can keep my ''friends'' in line is with pressure. So the United States, and I hope other civilized nations, will join us in saying that is unacceptable.

I thank the Senator and I agree with him. Now is the time to act in the Senate.

Mr. McCAIN. I note the presence of the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee whom I wish to thank for his rapid leadership in getting this legislation approved by an overwhelming majority of the committee on a bipartisan basis. I know he is waiting to speak.

I have just one more comment for my friend from Illinois. I understand he just met with Ukrainian Americans in Chicago, in his home State of Illinois. Isn't it true they don't quite understand why we have not acted more rapidly in the face of naked aggression—which is incredible acquisition of territory which the Russian Government guaranteed as part of Ukraine when Ukraine gave up its nuclear inventory, which happened to be the third largest in the world. I see the chairman waiting, so I will not ask any more questions, except to urge my colleagues let's have an overwhelming vote to move to this legislation and get it done as quickly as possible.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, first let me thank my two colleagues, both distinguished members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator MCCAIN and Senator DURBIN. Their work and their leadership on this issue has created the type of bipartisan spirit that I think is incredibly important in general but certainly in foreign relations. They both added greatly to the legislation that came out of committee with a strong bipartisan vote that we are considering on the floor.

Last week some of my colleagues in this Chamber were sanctioned by Vladimir Putin for standing up for the Ukrainian people, standing up for freedom, standing up for their democratic aspirations, standing up for the sovereignty of Ukraine. As I said in Brussels at the German Marshall Fund this weekend, if I have been sanctioned for those reasons, then I say, by all means, Mr. Putin, sanction me.

I urge all of my colleagues to be supportive of the legislation. They may be sanctioned at the end of the day, but that is really what standing for Ukraine is all about at this critical moment and what it means beyond.

When we look around the world, we realize that every so often we face a critical juncture at a time of great upheaval and change. With the backsliding of Russian leadership to a pre-1991 posture, we are at such a juncture. Vladimir Putin seems to view the pre-1991 Soviet Union's expansionist authoritarianism as a present-day goal and the last two decades, which saw the formation of new and independent states, as a departure from Peter the Great's expansionist aspirations.

From Ukraine, to Georgia, to the Middle East, we are seeing a new Russian leadership bent on using its military authority, its economic resources, and diplomacy to serve its parochial interests at any cost—despite violations of its own legal commitments and those it has made to the international community.

Russia's flatout extortion of Ukraine, supported by former corrupt leaders of Ukraine, forced the political explosion which Russia then exploited.

In Syria, President Putin is actively propping up President Bashar al-Assad and perpetuating the world's worst humanitarian disaster.

In Iran, the ink of the Joint Plan of Action signed in Geneva last November was barely dry when reports surfaced that Tehran and Moscow were negotiating an oil-for-goods swap worth $1.5 billion a month, and that they planned to build a new nuclear plant—all steps that only aid Iran in its pursuit of nuclear weapons, while diminishing the sanctions that forced that country to the negotiating table in the first place.

It is no surprise that Putin and his cronies have already threatened to derail Syria and Iran talks if their countries do not step back from punishing Russia for its annexation of Ukraine.

In Geneva, as the P5+1 talks with Iran continue, we can only hope that the crisis in Ukraine will not have a ripple effect in Russia's position or participation.

But, in my view, Mr. Putin has miscalculated. He has reignited a dangerous pre-1991 Soviet-style game of Russian roulette with the international community, and we cannot blink.

He must understand that we will never accept his violation of international law in Ukraine. That is why we passed this legislation in committee—an aid package for Ukraine that provides loans for economic stabilization, supports planning for upcoming democratic elections, aids in the recovery of stolen assets, and expands security cooperation between the two countries, and it holds Moscow accountable for its aggressive stance against Ukraine.

First, this legislation provides for Ukrainian loan guarantees, consistent with the $1 billion announced by the administration in recent days. It mirrors the House legislation.

Second, it ensures that the Obama administration can assist the Ukrainian Government to identify, secure, and recover assets linked to the acts of corruption by Viktor Yanukovych, members of his family, or other former or current Ukrainian Government officials.

Third, it authorizes $50 million for democracy, governance, and civil society assistance and $100 million for enhanced security cooperation for Ukraine and other states in Central and Eastern Europe.

Fourth, it mandates sanctions, complementing the President's recent Executive order, against Ukrainians and Russians alike responsible for violence and serious human rights abuses against antigovernment protesters—and those responsible for undermining the peace, security, stability, sovereignty or territorial integrity of Ukraine—as well as imposing sanctions on Russian individuals complicit in or responsible for significant corruption in Ukraine.

Fifth, it allows the administration to broadly sanction corrupt Russian officials and go after Putin's allies and cronies who are engaged in massive corruption to the detriment of the Russian people.

Finally, it provides needed reforms to the United States' participation in the International Monetary Fund, which would allow the United States to leverage significant support from the IMF for Ukraine today and for similar unforeseen crises that are going to come in the future.

It is the IMF that is leading the effort to stabilize Ukraine's fragile economy, an essential task if there is to be any chance of reaching a peaceful political solution to the standoff with Russia.

Congressional ratification of the 2010 IMF reforms would increase IMF emergency funding to Ukraine by up to 60 percent, and it would provide an additional $6 billion for longer-term support, setting an important marker for other donors such as the EU and the World Bank.

Failure to approve the reforms, on the other hand, would undermine both the IMF and the international standing of the United States.

Some countries are happy to see U.S. global influence diminish. Failing to approve the reforms weakens the United States and emboldens our competitors.

The IMF is strengthened at no cost to U.S. finances or influence. The United States retains its Executive Board seat and sole veto power at no net cost, since the $63 billion increase in U.S. quota is fully offset by an equivalent decrease to a separate emergency facility. Other countries, however, put in new money, increasing IMF lending power.

The fact is, it is a pure win for the United States. We will pay for the $315 million budget impact of the bill with real cuts and from funds that were underperforming or no longer needed. Given that the IMF helps to stabilize countries, often precluding future need for military action, the relatively minor cost will pay back many times over.

This is not a partisan issue. Presidents Reagan, Clinton, and both Presidents Bush backed legislation to increase IMF resources, and President Reagan called the IMF ''the linchpin of the international financial system.''

These efforts combined send a message to the world that the annexation of Crimea will not stand.

Let me close by saying we are at a dangerous moment in history, with global consequences, and the world is watching.

If the West does not act, what will China say when it is looking at its territorial desires in the South China Sea? What will Iran say when we are negotiating in Vienna about nuclear weapons? What will others in the world say—North Korea, whose march to nuclear weapons on a greater scale is still in play?

All of them will be looking at what we in the West do or do not do, in making a decision about Russia's brazen

move into Ukraine. They will be watching to see how far they can go, how much they can do. They will be asking: What can I get away with?

The fact is, as a matter of principle, Ukrainian sovereignty cannot be violated for simply looking westward and embracing ideals rooted in freedom. These ideals must always remain first and foremost in our strategic response to international events.

When I was in Brussels last week at NATO and the German Marshall Fund, I said: The broader question that faces us is this: Can a united transatlantic vision and our collective commitment to bold actions in this century match the vision and commitment of those who created the international institutions which brought peace and prosperity to millions in the last century?

I believe that—if we live, lead, and govern, guided by shared values and united by our common concerns—we can lead the world through this transformational moment in history and prevent further Russian aggression from taking us back prior to what was that 1991 world.

That is the choice before us. I urge my colleagues to strongly support the cloture motion so that we can work toward a statement that will do exactly that.

Mr. MCCAIN. Will the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. MENENDEZ. I will be happy to yield to the distinguished Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. I think it is very clear that Vladimir Putin has amassed forces on the border of Russia and eastern Ukraine, and right now he is calculating as to whether to move there or even into Moldova, where the Transnistrian region is now occupied and has been by Russian troops. Also, there is pressure on the Baltic countries that is being exerted as we speak, a lot of it in defense of ''Russian-speaking people.'' If we do not send this message now, with this package, in a bipartisan and strong manner, Vladimir Putin will be encouraged to enact further acts of aggression against Crimea and in the region.

I would ask my colleague if he does not agree with that assessment.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I think the Senator is spot-on. Right now, Putin is looking at whether or not he proceeds in Eastern Ukraine. He is looking at Transnistria and Moldova. He is calculating and he is calculating: What are the costs? What will the United States and the European Union do?

From my perspective, President Putin only understands strength, and that strength is either in a military context—which, of course, no one is speaking about at this moment—or an economic one. That is why this package is so incredibly important—because it takes every single dimension that the distinguished Senator helped us in the committee on. It aids Ukraine up front for the loan guarantee. It sanctions—and the Senator was very engaged in several elements of that—elements of the Russian hierarchy for engaging in corrupting the country, Ukraine, and at the same time for invading its territorial integrity. It prepares assistance for that election which is supposed to take place in May that is critical to be fair, open, and transparent and, at the same time, provides for the greater resources through the IMF.

So all of these elements are critical. It also includes a very clear statement about greater defense cooperation, which is also critically important.

So these are all the elements of sending a strong message, as Putin is calculating: What will be the cost? If the cost is not high enough, he may very well proceed into Eastern Ukraine or to those parts of Moldova. That is an action that we can ill-afford and the action that others will look at across the world, as I mentioned, that they will calculate: The West is not willing to take the actions necessary to stop my designs.

If that is the case, then I think we are in a world of hurt across the globe.

Mr. MCCAIN. I thank the chairman for his eloquent statement.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative 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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 329, S. 2124, a bill to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Robert Menendez, Debbie Stabenow, Barbara Boxer, Patty Murray, Richard Blumenthal, Jeff Merkley, Carl Levin, Joe Donnelly, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, Maria Cantwell, Barbara A. Mikulski, Tom Harkin, Tim Kaine, Jeanne Shaheen, Jon Tester.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to S. 2124, a bill to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) are necessarily absent.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DONNELLY). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 78, nays 17, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 79 Leg.]

YEAS—78

Alexander	Graham	Murkowski
Ayotte	Grassley	Murphy
Baldwin	Hagan	Murray
Begich	Harkin	Nelson
Bennet	Hatch	Portman
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Pryor
Blunt	Heitkamp	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boxer	Hoeven	Rockefeller
Brown	Inhofe	Rubio
Burr	Isakson	Sanders
Cardin	Johanns	Schatz
Carper	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Casey	Johnson (WI)	Shaheen
Coats	Kaine	Stabenow
Collins	King	Tester
Coons	Klobuchar	Thune
Corker	Leahy	Toomey
Cornyn	Levin	Udall (CO)
Donnelly	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Durbin	Markey	Vitter
Feinstein	McCain	Walsh
Fischer	McConnell	Warner
Flake	Menendez	Warren
Franken	Merkley	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Mikulski	Wyden

NAYS—17

Barrasso	Enzi	Roberts
Boozman	Heller	Scott
Coburn	Lee	Sessions
Cochran	Moran	Shelby
Crapo	Paul	Wicker
Cruz	Risch	

NOT VOTING—5

Cantwell	Kirk	McCaskill
Chambliss	Landrieu	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 78, the nays are 17. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Washington.

OSO LANDSLIDE

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I am sure all our colleagues have seen the news over the past few days from my home State of Washington where we are suffering from a devastating natural disaster.

For those who haven't seen the coverage, on Saturday the town of Oso, WA—a very small, tightly knit community on the Stillaguamish River—was hit by a massive landslide. It has cut off the town of Darrington just a few miles up State Road 530, and houses over a square mile have been swept away.

We know already we have lost eight people. This morning we learned there are more than 100 people still missing, and right now in my home State of Washington there are dozens of families who do not know if their loved ones are still alive. These are moms and dads, they are sons and daughters, they are neighbors and friends who in the blink of an eye saw water and earth

wipe away their homes and their entire community, and now many of them don't know if their loved ones survived.

I was in Arlington, WA, yesterday, where the search and rescue operations are being coordinated. It is just down the road from where the slide hit, and I want to talk for a few minutes this evening on the Senate floor about this tragedy.

Oso and Darrington are very small towns like a lot of others in this country. The population of Oso is 180 people. These are the types of places where everyone knows everyone, where they stop to say hello, and where everyone lends a helping hand. It is impossible to describe the scope of this devastation. There isn't a single person who hasn't been impacted in some way by this tragedy. There also isn't a single person anywhere who isn't doing everything they can to help. I saw neighbors who were there providing food, providing shelter, offers of all kinds of hope, help, hugs, and prayers. First responders are risking their lives every minute, braving very dangerous conditions to look for survivors. People across my State are offering help and donations, anything they can to assist these communities that are experiencing the unthinkable. We have grocery stores offering food to the families who need it and to the rescue workers. The Red Cross is there on the ground. Tribal leaders from the local community are coming to offer what they can.

I wanted my colleagues to know that this weekend I saw some of the worst devastation I have ever witnessed in my home State. At the same time I also saw firefighters who hadn't slept. They refused to stop as they searched for survivors. I saw families refusing to give up hope, and I saw communities that need our entire State and our entire country to stand with them now.

Even though Oso and Darrington are 2,300 miles away from the Nation's Capital, our hearts and prayers are with the families in those communities tonight. In the coming weeks and months—and even years if that is what it takes—all of us need to stand with the people of Oso and Darrington and Arlington and provide the Federal resources they are going to desperately need in this recovery and rebuilding operation. I want them to know they will have the thoughts and prayers of everyone in this country going out to the real Washington as they see this through.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

SMITH AND MCHUGH NOMINATIONS

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I rise this evening to speak in support of two nominees for Federal judgeships from Pennsylvania. I believe my colleague Senator CASEY is going to have a message he will share with us momentarily.

First, I wish to be very clear that I am very enthusiastically in support of both Judge Ed Smith and Mr. Gerald McHugh, the two nominees, both of whom are likely to get a vote this week. If confirmed, they will serve as U.S. district judges for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

I thank Chairman LEAHY and Ranking Member GRASSLEY for their work in ushering these candidates through the committee process.

I thank Leader REID and Leader MCCONNELL for their role in ensuring these nominees would have a chance to have a vote on the Senate floor.

Most of all, I thank my colleague Senator CASEY. Senator CASEY and I have been working hard to fill a number of vacancies on the Federal bench in Pennsylvania since I got to the Senate. He predates my arrival here, so he has been at this longer than I have, but since I have arrived we have had a terrific working relationship. We have had eight terrific men and women confirmed to the Federal bench across Pennsylvania. Hopefully, these two gentlemen will join them and we will be up to 10.

We have developed a rigorous process by which the many candidates who apply for these vacancies are thoroughly vetted, and I am very pleased that we have been able to make this ongoing process work. Pennsylvanians expect us to work together across party lines—a Democratic Senator and a Republican Senator—to simply find the best candidates. I have to say that I think we are doing exactly that with respect to our judicial nominees, and there could be no better examples than Judge Smith and Gerald McHugh.

Ed Smith was approved by the Judiciary Committee by a voice vote on January 16. He is very well respected. I have known Judge Smith for nearly 20 years. There is no question that he has the requisite skills, the knowledge, the background, and the acumen. He will be a great Federal judge. We know this because of what he has already accomplished in his career. He serves as a captain in the U.S. Navy, in the JAG Corps. He has been a commanding officer at the Navy Reserve Naval Justice School. He served as a military trial judge in the Navy Reserve. He was deployed to Iraq in 2007 and 2008 to serve as a rule of law advisor to the Iraqis, and he received a Bronze Star for his service.

Currently, Ed Smith is a judge on the Northampton County Court of Common Pleas. He has been a partner in the law firm of DeRaymond & Smith, and he is a cum laude graduate from Dickinson Law School.

Importantly, Judge Smith has agreed that if he is confirmed, he will sit in the Easton Courthouse in the First District. That is a courthouse which has not had a district court judge since 2004. The people of Northampton County deserve to have that courthouse filled, and Judge Smith is an outstanding candidate to do it.

I am also delighted to support Gerald McHugh. Gerald McHugh is a highly accomplished attorney, of very keen intellect, with a great commitment to public service. He is currently a partner in the Raynes McCarty firm. His work has mostly been in civil litigation, in medical malpractice, in litigation regarding unsafe products, aviation disasters, and in civil rights. He has been a shareholder in the firm of Litvin, Blumberg, Matusow & Young.

He began his career clerking for District Court Judge Luongo in the Eastern District. He is a cum laude graduate from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

Gerald McHugh is not only a skilled lawyer, but he has been very active in his community. He has been giving back to the greater Philadelphia area for a long time. He is on the boards of many charitable and civic organizations. He is the president of the Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network and has been since 2004. He cofounded the Hospitality House of Philadelphia to help ex-offenders, and he does pro bono work to improve neighborhoods and prevent crime in West Philadelphia.

Both of these candidates have the crucial qualities necessary to make outstanding judges, and they have manifested that throughout their very distinguished careers. They have the intelligence, they have the integrity, they have the commitment to public service, and they have respect for the limited role the judiciary has under our constitutional system. So I am pleased to rise to speak on behalf of these two highly accomplished nominees, and I urge my colleagues to support their confirmation later this week.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I would like to commend and salute the work done by Senator TOOMEY and his staff, working with ours, as well as the leaders he mentioned, beginning with Majority Leader REID and Chairman LEAHY.

Like Senator TOOMEY, I am grateful to have the opportunity to talk about both of these nominees for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania: Edward George Smith, who serves now as a judge, as well as Gerald Austin McHugh, Jr. I have known Gerald Austin McHugh, Jr., a lot longer, and I will speak about him first. I know him as Jerry.

If there is one thing I could say about Jerry McHugh, it is he is a lawyer's lawyer. He is the kind of lawyer other lawyers go to for advice, for guidance, and sometimes for education. He has been a great leader in the bar, but also someone who has been a strong advocate for those who need a voice, often serving as a lawyer for those who wouldn't have an advocate absent his involvement in a case.

Jerry McHugh is a Philadelphia native. He was educated at St. Joe's University in Philadelphia where he received a degree in theology, graduating summa cum laude with the highest

honors. He also graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, and he graduated from Penn law school with honors as well.

He began his practice at the law firm of Litvin Blumberg Matusow & Young in the early 1980s. Prior to his career as a lawyer, he served two judges as a law clerk: first, Judge Spaeth, Superior Court of Pennsylvania, the second highest court in the State right next to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. He then served Judge Alfred L. Luongo, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. He then went into practice in the Litvin firm, and later the Raynes McCarty law firm in Philadelphia, PA, starting in 2004.

I will highlight a few memberships which I think bear upon his work as a lawyer and the work he will do as a judge. He has been a member of the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers and a board member of the Legal Aid Network in Philadelphia. He served the bar association in a number of capacities, including Volunteers for the Indigent Program, helping those who may not have a voice.

Jerry focused his practice on complex civil litigation, including a variety of matters. I think it is noteworthy that the Pennsylvania Supreme Court three times appointed him to chair the Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts Program, a program which is very important so that when the fund is needed to help resolve a case which involves a lawyer, the fund is there. It has to be administered and overseen by folks who have the highest integrity.

I know Jerry McHugh as someone who has a wide range of experience as a lawyer, an advocate, an active citizen, someone who would bring to the court a passion for justice and a sense of outrage in the face of injustice. I can't say enough about his experience and his preparation for this very important assignment he would have upon confirmation to be a judge in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. I am grateful for his willingness to serve.

In addition, Judge Edward George Smith, as Senator TOOMEY noted, has a great career and a varied set of experiences, serving now as a judge in the Court of Common Pleas in Northampton County since January of 2002. He was elected to that position and then retained, which is the ultimate validation of someone's services on the bench in the Court of Common Pleas in Pennsylvania.

Prior, as Senator TOOMEY noted, Judge Smith served the United States in the Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps as a captain, from 1984 until the present time. He also served in the DeRaymond & Smith law firm for about 11 years. In that time period he served as solicitor for a number of entities in the region.

Edward Smith has also demonstrated his commitment to his community. He is a former president of the Boys and Girls Club of Easton, PA, former president of the Kiwanis Club of Palmer Township, former emergency medical technician in Forks Township.

His 27-year military career is substantial. In addition to serving in the Navy and achieving the rank of captain, he served our country in Iraq. Just a few of his commendations are the Bronze Star medal, Meritorious Service medal, and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation medal.

Whether by way of life experience as well as legal experience or whether his experience as a judge, Judge Smith is prepared to be a judge again on a different court—in this case, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

When we make decisions about whom to nominate for either the district court or the appellate court, we always want to consider a range of characteristics, experiences, and qualifications. First and foremost, we look to people who have unquestioned integrity. We look to them as people who have a varied experience, whether in the law as a judge or in other life experiences as well. We also look to people who can do the job—not just by way of their integrity and ability but also those who have the judicial temperament, the approach to litigants, to treat them with fairness and to arrive at a measure of justice.

On those qualifications and characteristics, as well as others, both of these nominees possess them in abundance. I am grateful for Senator TOOMEY's work with us to get this done to have two judges to be confirmed, and we are looking forward to doing that later this week.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

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

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

1964 ALASKA EARTHQUAKE

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Thank you, Mr. President.

In Alaska there is a great deal of attention focused this week on the Great Alaska Earthquake of 1964. March 27 marked the 50th anniversary of this amazing physical event, the second largest earthquake that has ever been recorded, an episode Alaskans have been talking about for the past 50 years and will be talking about for the next 50. I rise this afternoon not to speak about that anniversary but to speak of a 25-year anniversary that while not caused by Mother Nature had a devastating impact on Alaska and the surrounding waters of our State. I would like to speak very briefly about where we are 25 years after the Exxon Valdez ran aground on Bligh Reef.

The Exxon Valdez was a 987-foot tanker. It was carrying 53 million gallons of crude oil. It struck Bligh Reef in Prince William Sound at 12:04 a.m., on March 24, 1989, and within literally hours it had released approximately 11 million gallons of crude oil into the water.

As most know, the Alaskan coastline isn't just a nice thin straight beach; it is hundreds and hundreds of coves and islands and miles of shoreline. That oil spread over approximately 1,000 miles of shoreline across our coast. It is absolutely a fact that this environmental disaster is something that has left an impression on Alaskans not unlike what we experienced 25 years prior to that with another one of Mother Nature's devastations, the Great Friday earthquake in 1964.

It is important when we have milestones, when we have anniversaries or times where we pause to think about what has happened before, that we not only think about the tragedy at the time but we think about how we have moved forward from that time, hopefully learning from those incidents that trigger such strong memories.

So many Alaskans have stories of how they worked to help clean up the oil spill in the aftermath of the Exxon Valdez, whether it was fishermen who had been displaced—they were no longer going out and fishing; instead they charged their vessels to be part of the massive cleanup effort that was underway. The stories that are out there throughout our State and from folks around the country are as poignant and touching 25 years later as they were at the time, because as the environment was impacted, the lives of Alaskans were clearly impacted.

I like to think I spend a good amount of time in the small fishing community of Cordova—a community that was dramatically impacted by the Exxon Valdez spill—visiting with fishermen and fishing families decades after the fact and hearing their stories not only of the loss they incurred because they were not able to go out and fish, they were not able to meet their boat mortgages, but the other stresses the community experienced because of this disaster, whether it was personal bankruptcies, whether it was divorce, whether it was social issues because people just couldn't deal with the fact that their landscape and their livelihoods had been changed. It was a very trying and traumatic time. I think those scars take decades to heal.

My hope is that, as Alaskans, we come together and learn from these tragedies and events so we can move forward. We are pretty resilient people. The people who have been so dramatically impacted are proof and evidence of that.

What else have we seen as we have tried to learn from that tragedy? I think it is fair to say that at the time—back in 1989 when the Exxon Valdez ran aground—there was perhaps, as some would call it, a complacency. Perhaps we were just not monitoring operations as we should have,

but we had an industry that had been operating quite safely—absolutely safely—for decades without incident. When you lose that vigilance, things can happen, and things happened with the Exxon Valdez.

Since that time, we have learned that you have to have a level of preparedness as you operate in areas such as the Prince William Sound, you have to have a level of preparedness that meets the challenge you face. At the time the tanker ran aground, the spill response equipment that was there and had been planned for was not readily available. We didn't have sufficient boom available in the event of a disaster. We didn't have the fleet that could go out and assist in the disaster.

Now, 25 years later, Alyeska has 189 skimmers, 49 miles of boom and on-water storage capacity of almost 38 million gallons. We have put in place a requirement that North Slope oil must be transported in double-hull tankers. You cannot bring a tanker in to carry North Slope crude unless it is double-hulled. It doesn't matter what the weather is, we require a level of escort—a two-tug escort—out of the Prince William Sound. It can be a flat, calm summer day or a foul winter day, but every tanker going out is escorted by two tugs. We also have radar monitors that are in place that truly allow for a greater level of oversight and scrutiny.

What we have done in response to the spill is, I think, something that is worthy of note. Clearly, it is something that Other Nations look to as the example of preparedness. We have our Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council in place. They are truly active and engaged, not only with the community, but with the fishing fleets.

We have learned that the company Alyeska—the management company for the transportation of Alaska's North Slope oil—conducts two major oil spill drills every year to make sure that there is a level of preparedness. We have about 400 local fishing boat owners that are trained to deploy and maintain the boom. They come together with drills to make sure we never have anything like we saw with the Exxon Valdez again.

I think it is fair to say that 25 years after the spill, we are continuing to monitor not only the land and water but our fisheries. I recognize we still have a herring fishery that has not yet recovered. We still have a bird population—the guillemot—which has not recovered.

Twenty-five years is a long time. When you have a disaster, as we had, it does leave an impact. My goal, mission, and effort as a legislator is to make certain we do not have a level of complacency where we close our eyes and fail in our efforts for preparedness again.

I think what we have demonstrated in Alaska since the spill is, as I say, admirable in recognizing that we had failed in a level of prevention, but we also recognized we could learn from that tragedy and move forward, and we did.

I wanted to take a couple of minutes this afternoon and acknowledge that there are still many Alaskans who woke up this morning not thinking about the weather or getting their kids to school, but with a very strong reminder of where they were 25 years ago and how the events of that day changed people's lives. Again, the goal here is to never have a tragedy of that scale and scope again.

With that, I thank the Chair, yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call 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.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

REMEMBERING RICHARD CLINE

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to Richard Francis Cline, a member of ''The Greatest Generation.'' Mr. Cline, who passed away last September at the age of 89, will be honored today by interment at Arlington National Cemetery. Mr. Cline was a dedicated father and patriot who, like so many of his generation, left friends, family, and the comfort of home to take up arms in defense of his Nation.

A native of Chicago, and North Carolinian later in his life, Mr. Cline and his eight siblings knew hardship early in life, coming of age during the Great Depression. To help support his family he worked at several jobs as a boy and as a young man. He began working by selling popcorn at Wrigley Stadium at the age of 9 and learned, out of necessity, the merit of a strong work ethic that would follow him for the rest of his life.

After graduating from high school, he joined the U.S. Army at the age of 18. He served his country in General Patton's famous 3rd Army Corps, where he was a member of the 15th Medical Supply Division that operated in England as well as France and Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge. He witnessed the horrors of war and served his country to provide not only for his family, but also for the freedom of all Americans.

While stationed in a small town in Belgium, he met his future wife, Jeanine. She returned with him to America and they continued their lives together following the war. They were married for 64 years, and together they raised 4 children who saw their father not only as their parent, but as their friend.

Once Mr. Cline returned home, he started what would become a 44-year career with the Continental Can Corporation. Those who knew him would tell you that he expected nothing he did not earn, and worked hard to achieve the American dream he fought so hard to protect. He gave earnestly to his community in many ways throughout his life, often making wooden toys for children who might not otherwise have had any presents at Christmas. Richard Francis Cline embodied the spirit of the ''greatest generation'' and made many who knew him proud to call him both a fellow American and a friend.

I am honored to have been able to call Mr. Cline a constituent. His interment at Arlington National Cemetery is recognition of his loyal service to this great Nation. I offer my condolences to his family and those who knew Mr. Richard Cline, for we have lost a remarkable man and role model.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING JUAN GONZALEZ AND BRIAN LAW

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of two dedicated public servants, California Highway Patrol officers Juan Gonzalez and Brian Law. Officer Gonzalez and Officer Law were tragically killed in the line of duty while responding to an automobile accident in Kingsburg, CA.

A graduate of Tulare Union High School and California State University, Fresno, Juan Gonzalez joined the California Highway Patrol in 2008, the culmination of years of hard work and the realization of a goal that he had held since he was 5 years old. He worked for 2 years in San Jose before transferring to the Fresno area in 2010.

A Marine and Air Force reservist, Brian Law also graduated from the California Highway Patrol Academy in 2008 and worked in Alameda County for the CHP for 5 years before transferring to Fresno last year.

Officer Gonzalez and Officer Law first met as cadets at the California Highway Patrol Academy, where they became good friends. In 2013, they teamed up as partners in the CHP's Fresno office.

Those who knew Officer Gonzalez fondly remember him as a trusted colleague and friend who was committed to his career and family. His determined spirit, unique laugh, and camaraderie will be missed.

Officer Law was an avid sports fan with an engaging personality whose willingness to help others and passion for law enforcement helped him to become a respected member of the California Highway Patrol. Above all else,

Brian is remembered as a devoted family man.

Officers Gonzalez and Law dutifully served the people of California with honor and valor. Their service and dedication epitomize the best ideals of law enforcement, and I send my heartfelt sympathies to their families, friends and colleagues—especially Maria, Officer Gonzalez's mother, and his sister Sandra; and Rebecca, Officer Law's wife; his stepdaughter Lauren; son Brandon; daughter Samantha; father Denis Law; mother Judy Doty; and sister Carol Law-Stetson.

They will be sorely missed.●

REMEMBERING SERGEANT TOM SMITH

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Sergeant Tom Smith, a 23-year veteran of the Bay Area Rapid Transit, BART, Police Department, who was an exceptional law enforcement officer, a devoted and loyal friend, and most of all a dedicated family man. Sergeant Smith was tragically struck down on January 21, 2014, becoming the first police officer in BART's 42-year history to be killed in the line of duty.

Tom Smith was born and raised in the San Francisco Bay Area, the youngest of three brothers who all became police officers and the first to pursue a career in law enforcement. Joining the BART police at age 19 as a cadet, he rose through the ranks, serving as a field training officer and a K–9 handler before becoming a detective and eventually reaching the rank of Sergeant, where he led BART's detective unit.

Colleagues remember Sergeant Smith as an experienced and respected leader who was passionate about his work. It was through his job that he met the love of his life, Kellie, a BART police officer with the K–9 unit. Married in 2001, Sergeant Smith and his wife have a beautiful 6-year-old daughter, Summer. His friends remember him as a devoted husband, father, and brother. When he was not on duty he spent as much time as he could with Kellie and Summer, his brothers Patrick, a Newark police officer, and Edward, an Alameda County sheriff's deputy, and his brother-in-law Todd, a Hayward police officer.

Tom Smith dedicated his life to his family, his community, and his country. His dedicated and courageous service will not be forgotten. On behalf of the people of California, whom he served so bravely, I extend my gratitude and deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and colleagues.●

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COYOTES

● Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. President, I am proud to congratulate the University of South Dakota, USD, Coyotes Women's basketball team for making the NCAA Division I tournament. In just their second year of eligibility, this is an extraordinary achievement.

On March 11 the Coyotes faced off against the Denver Pioneers. They played remarkably well and defeated their rivals capturing the Summit League Championship title, and ultimately clinching an automatic berth in the NCAA tournament.

Founded in 1862, the University of South Dakota has continually sought and achieved excellence. As my alma mater, I personally can attest to the spirit of this world-class institution. Qualifying for the NCAA Division I tournament exemplifies the hard work that defines the USD community and showcases its prestige.

I commend the exceptional leadership and vision of president James W. Abbott who, in 2006, announced that USD's athletic programs would transition from NCAA Division II to Division I. That move made this journey to the Big Dance possible. Additionally, director of athletics David Herbster along with head coach Amy Williams, assistant coaches Brook Atkinson, Josh Hutchinson, and Chuck Love, and graduate assistant Tandem Mays helped lead the team through this remarkable season.

In honor of their dedication and success I would like to congratulate to each of the outstanding Coyote team members: Bailey Milne, Tia Hemiller, Madeleine White, Kelly Stewart, Taylor Moore, Bridget Arens, Raeshel Contreras, Jaylah Jackson, Margaret McCloud, Emily Smith, Polly Harrington, Nicole Seekamp, Heidi Hoff, and Lisa Loeffler. Their tireless work ethic, determination, and skills are second to none. Congratulations and Go Yotes!●

REMEMBERING MASTER SERGEANT DAVID POIRIER

● Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, it is with profound sadness that I rise to honor the life and service of U.S. Air Force Master Sergeant David Poirier, who passed away February 28, 2014, while stationed at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. Master Sergeant Poirier was serving his sixth tour overseas as a member of the New Hampshire Air National Guard's 157th Operational Support Squadron. He had also previously completed tours in Iraq, Afghanistan, Guam, Qatar, and El Salvador, in addition to other Guard missions in New Hampshire.

Dave, as he was known to family and friends, was born in Woonsocket, RI, and grew up in Blackstone, MA, where he graduated from Blackstone-Millville Regional High School. A resident of Salem, NH, Dave was an active and respected member of the New Hampshire community in his role as an airman as well as his position as postmaster for the town of Atkinson. At the time of his passing at age 52, Dave had served over 22 years in the U.S. Air Force and had earned the Air Force Commendation Medal twice, campaign medals for Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the Global War on Terrorism, as well as other awards.

Like many New Englanders, Dave enjoyed the outdoors by taking camping and fishing trips throughout the region. He also took particular pleasure in riding his Harley-Davidson on the back roads of New Hampshire. Most of all, Dave loved spending time with his family, entertaining them with magic tricks and card games.

I had the honor of meeting Master Sergeant Poirier's family during his dignified transfer ceremony at Pease Air National Guard Base. He was a devoted family man and I know his absence will be felt by many. However, it is my hope that during this extremely difficult time Dave's family and friends will find comfort in knowing that Americans everywhere appreciate deeply his vow to defend our country so that the rest of us may continue to live in peace and freedom.

Along with his wife, Kim, Master Sergeant Poirier is survived by his sons Andrew and Bradley Poirier; his daughter Nicole Poirier; his step sons Kevin and Dillon Forzese; his grandchildren Eliana, Kai, and Olivia; his brothers Kenny, Charlie, John, and Bob Poirier; as well as his step father Charlie Caine.

I ask my colleagues and all Americans to join me in honoring the life and service of this brave American, David Poirier.●

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXECUTIVE ORDER TO TAKE ADDITIONAL STEPS WITH RESPECT TO THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY ORIGINALLY DECLARED ON MARCH 6, 2014 IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13660 WITH RESPECT TO UKRAINE, RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON MARCH 17, 2014—PM 36

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

THE WHITE HOUSE,
Washington, DC, March 16, 2014.

Hon. JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.,
President of the Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) (IEEPA), I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order (the ''order'') expanding the scope of the national emergency I declared in Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014, with respect to the unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States posed by the situation in Ukraine.

In the order, I find that the actions and policies of the Government of the Russian Federation with respect to Ukraine—including the recent deployment of Russian Federation military forces in the Crimea region of Ukraine—undermine democratic processes

and institutions in Ukraine; threaten its peace, security, stability, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; and contribute to the misappropriation of its assets, and thereby constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. The order blocks the property and interests in property of persons listed in an Annex to the order. The order also blocks the property and interests in property of persons determined by the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State:

- to be an official of the Government of the Russian Federation;
- to operate in the arms and related materiel sector in the Russian Federation;
- to be owned or controlled by, or to have acted or purported to act for or on behalf of, directly or indirectly:
  - a senior official of the Government of the Russian Federation; or
  - a person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order; or
- to have materially assisted, sponsored, or provided financial, material, or technological support for, or goods or services to or in support of:
  - a senior official of the Government of the Russian Federation; or
  - a person whose property and interests in property are blocked pursuant to the order.

In addition, the order suspends entry into the United States of any alien determined to meet one or more of the above criteria.

I have delegated to the Secretary of the Treasury the authority, in consultation with the Secretary of State, to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all powers granted to the President by IEEPA as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of the order. All agencies of the United States Government are directed to take all appropriate measures within their authority to carry out the provisions of the order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

Sincerely,

BARACK OBAMA.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on March 14, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

S.J. Res. 32. Joint resolution providing for the reappointment of John W. McCarter as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the joint resolution was subsequently signed on March 14, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. KING).

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on March 14, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 2650. An act to allow the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa in the State of Minnesota to lease or transfer certain land.

H.R. 3370. An act to delay the implementation of certain provisions of the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4076. An act to address shortages and interruptions in the availability of propane and other home heating fuels in the United States, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the bills were subsequently signed on March 15, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. REED).

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on March 18, 2014, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 6968(a), and the order of the House of January 3, 2013, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Naval Academy: Mr. THOMAS J. ROONEY of Florida.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3189. An act to prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture.

H.R. 3973. An act to amend section 530D of title 28, United States Code.

H.R. 4015. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and improve Medicare payments for physicians and other professionals, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3189. An act to prohibit the conditioning of any permit, lease, or other use agreement on the transfer of any water right to the United States by the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3973. An act to amend section 530D of title 28, United States Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs pursuant to the order of January 13, 2014, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1352. A bill to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 2148. A bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3474. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow employers to exempt employees with health coverage under TRICARE or the Veterans Administration from being taken into account for purposes of the employer mandate under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

H.R. 3979. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 2149. A bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on March 14, 2014, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled joint resolution:

S.J. Res. 32. Joint resolution providing for the reappointment of John W. McCarter as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. HELLER, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. KIRK):

S. 2149. A bill to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. HATCH):

S. 2150. A bill to advance the public health by encouraging independent innovators to pursue drug repurposing research and develop new treatments and cures by providing appropriate intellectual property protections for those innovations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON):

S. Res. 393. A resolution supporting the goals of World Tuberculosis Day to raise awareness about tuberculosis; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Res. 394. A resolution designating April 5, 2014, as ''Gold Star Wives Day'' ; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 132

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 132, a bill to provide for the admission of the State of New Columbia into the Union.

S. 170

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 170, a bill to recognize the heritage of recreational fishing, hunting, and recreational shooting on Federal public land and ensure continued opportunities for those activities.

S. 192

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 192, a bill to enhance the energy security of United States allies, and for other purposes.

S. 204

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 204, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 313

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax treatment of ABLE accounts established under State programs for the care of family members with disabilities, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 313, supra.

S. 338

At the request of Mr. WALSH, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 338, a bill to amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 to provide consistent and reliable authority for, and for the funding of, the land and water conservation fund to maximize the effectiveness of the fund for future generations, and for other purposes.

S. 370

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 370, a bill to improve and expand geographic literacy among kindergarten through grade 12 students in the United States by improving professional development programs for kindergarten through grade 12 teachers offered through institutions of higher education.

S. 382

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 382, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to allow physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and clinical nurse specialists to supervise cardiac, intensive cardiac, and pulmonary rehabilitation programs.

S. 392

At the request of Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 392, a bill to support and encourage the health and well-being of elementary school and secondary school students by enhancing school physical education and health education.

S. 398

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 398, a bill to establish the Commission to Study the Potential Creation of a National Women's History Museum, and for other purposes.

S. 635

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) were added as cosponsors of S. 635, a bill to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception to the annual written privacy notice requirement.

S. 728

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 728, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the exclusion from gross income for employer-provided health coverage for employees' spouses and dependent children to coverage provided to other eligible designated beneficiaries of employees.

S. 917

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 917, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a reduced rate of excise tax on beer produced domestically by certain qualifying producers.

S. 948

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 948, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage and payment for complex rehabilitation technology items under the Medicare program.

S. 994

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 994, a bill to expand the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 to increase accountability and transparency in Federal spending, and for other purposes.

S. 1053

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1053, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to strengthen and protect Medicare hospice programs.

S. 1064

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1064, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for treatment of clinical psychologists as physicians for purposes of furnishing clinical psychologist services under the Medicare program.

S. 1069

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1069, a bill to prohibit discrimination in adoption or foster care placements based on the sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status of any prospective adoptive or foster parent, or the sexual orientation or gender identity of the child involved.

S. 1212

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1212, a bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States.

S. 1242

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1242, a bill to amend the Fair Housing Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1291

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1291, a bill to strengthen families' engagement in the education of their children.

S. 1306

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1306, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 in order to improve environmental literacy to better prepare students for postsecondary education and careers, and for other purposes.

S. 1431

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1431, a bill to permanently extend the Internet Tax Freedom Act.

S. 1468

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 1468, a bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Network for Manufacturing Innovation and for other purposes.

S. 1517

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 1517, a bill to amend the Public Health Services Act and the Social Security Act to extend health information technology assistance eligibility to behavioral health, mental health, and substance abuse professionals and facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1574

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1574, a bill to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, and for other purposes.

S. 1647

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1647, a bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to repeal distributions for medicine qualified only if for prescribed drug or insulin.

S. 1659

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1659, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding proprietary institutions of higher education in order to protect students and taxpayers.

S. 1694

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1694, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for the purchase of hearing aids.

S. 1738

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1738, a bill to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

S. 1767

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1767, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require gas pipeline facilities to accelerate the repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of high-risk pipelines used in commerce, and for other purposes.

S. 1768

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1768, a bill to establish State revolving loan funds to repair or replace natural gas distribution pipelines.

S. 1823

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1823, a bill to amend part E of title IV of the Social Security Act to better enable State child welfare agencies to prevent human trafficking of children and serve the needs of children who are victims of human trafficking, and for other purposes.

S. 1827

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1827, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the American Fighter Aces, collectively, in recognition of their heroic military service and defense of our country's freedom throughout the history of aviation warfare.

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1827, supra.

S. 1941

At the request of Mr. INHOFE, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1941, a bill to establish requirements for the adoption of any new or revised requirement providing for the screening, testing, or treatment of an airman or an air traffic controller for a sleep disorder, and for other purposes.

S. 1956

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1956, a bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to review the discharge characterization of former members of the Armed Forces who were discharged by reason of the sexual orientation of the member, and for other purposes.

S. 1992

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1992, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide a standard definition of therapeutic foster care services in Medicaid.

S. 2008

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2008, a bill to strengthen resources for entrepreneurs by improving the SCORE program, and for other purposes.

S. 2024

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2024, a bill to amend chapter 1 of title 1, United States Code, with regard to the definition of ''marriage'' and ''spouse'' for Federal purposes and to ensure respect for State regulation of marriage.

S. 2037

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2037, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to remove the 96-hour physician certification requirement for inpatient critical access hospital services.

S. 2082

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2082, a bill to provide for the development of criteria under the Medicare program for medically necessary short inpatient hospital stays, and for other purposes.

S. 2083

At the request of Mr. UDALL of Colorado, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Ms. HEITKAMP) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2083, a bill to amend the Natural Gas Act to promote economic growth and job creation in the United States, to strengthen strategic partnerships with allies of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 2103

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2103, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to issue or revise regulations with respect to the medical certification of certain small aircraft pilots, and for other purposes.

S. 2105

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2105, a bill to prohibit the Federal funding of a State firearms ownership database.

S. 2106

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2106, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the individual health insurance mandate not apply until the employer health insurance mandate is enforced without exceptions.

S. 2115

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 2115, a bill to provide for the establishment of a fund to provide for an expanded and sustained national investment in biomedical research.

S. 2122

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2122, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and to improve Medicare and Medicaid payments, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 348

At the request of Mr. BURR, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S.

Res. 348, a resolution expressing support for the internal rebuilding, resettlement, and reconciliation within Sri Lanka that are necessary to ensure a lasting peace.

S. RES. 372

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 372, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of the Secondary School Student Athletes' Bill of Rights.

S. RES. 390

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 390, a resolution designating March 11, 2014, as ''World Plumbing Day''.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 393—SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF WORLD TUBERCULOSIS DAY TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT TUBERCULOSIS

Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. ISAKSON) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 393

Whereas 1/3 of the population of the world is infected with the tuberculosis bacterium;

Whereas more than 9,500 tuberculosis cases were reported in the United States in 2013;

Whereas more than 1,300,000 individuals die from tuberculosis each year;

Whereas over 95 percent of tuberculosis deaths occur in low- and middle-income developing countries;

Whereas tuberculosis is the second leading global infectious disease killer, behind HIV/AIDS, and claims 1,800,000 lives each year;

Whereas tuberculosis is a leading killer of people living with HIV/AIDS, causing 1/5 of all deaths among people with HIV/AIDS;

Whereas tuberculosis is the third leading killer of adult women, and the stigma associated with tuberculosis disproportionately affects women, causing women to delay seeking care and interfering with treatment adherence;

Whereas the global tuberculosis pandemic and the spread of drug-resistant tuberculosis present a persistent public health threat to the United States;

Whereas according to 2009 data from the World Health Organization, 3.6 percent of all new tuberculosis cases are drug resistant;

Whereas multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (referred to in this preamble as ''MDR-TB'') is present in virtually all countries surveyed;

Whereas approximately 450,000 people around the world developed MDR-TB in 2012;

Whereas extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis (referred to in this preamble as ''XDR-TB'') is a strain of tuberculosis that is very difficult and expensive to treat and has high and rapid fatality rates, especially among HIV/AIDS patients;

Whereas there have been more than 63 cases of XDR-TB in the United States between 2004 and 2014;

Whereas as of September 2013, 92 countries have reported at least 1 case of XDR-TB;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated, in 2009, that the cost of hospitalizing a single patient with XDR-TB is $483,000;

Whereas, between 2005 and 2007, the 373 XDR-TB cases in the United States collectively cost the health care system an estimated $53,000,000;

Whereas the death rate of tuberculosis dropped 45 percent between 1990 and 2012;

Whereas the Institute of Medicine found that a decrease in tuberculosis control funding and the spread of HIV/AIDS caused the resurgence of tuberculosis between 1980 and 1992;

Whereas although the number of tuberculosis cases in the United States continues to decline, progress towards eliminating tuberculosis has slowed and the disease does not recognize borders;

Whereas African Americans are 8 times more likely to have tuberculosis than Caucasians, and significant disparities exist among other minorities in the United States, including Native Americans, Asian Americans, and Hispanic Americans;

Whereas over 530,000 children became infected with tuberculosis in 2012;

Whereas tobacco use greatly increases the risk of tuberculosis and death, and more than 20 percent of tuberculosis cases worldwide attribute to smoking;

Whereas diabetes is a major risk factor for tuberculosis, and people with diabetes are more likely to develop the disease and have a higher risk of death due to the disease;

Whereas a new technology, known as Xpert, developed in the United States, is able to diagnose cases of tuberculosis within 2 hours, and such technology can even diagnose cases that are difficult to detect, such as cases involving individuals living with HIV;

Whereas although drugs, diagnostics, and vaccines for tuberculosis exist, these technologies are antiquated and increasingly inadequate for controlling the global epidemic;

Whereas Xpert can quickly detect resistance to 1 of the primary tuberculosis drugs, but other tests to detect drug resistance take at least 1 month to complete and the medical community must develop even faster drug susceptibility tests to stop the spread of drug-resistant tuberculosis;

Whereas Bacillus Calmette-Guérin, a tuberculosis vaccine that is known as ''BCG'', provides some protection to children but has little or no efficacy in preventing pulmonary tuberculosis in adults;

Whereas there is a critical need for the development of tuberculosis drugs that individuals can safely take concurrently with antiretroviral therapy for HIV;

Whereas the Millennium Development Goal of the World Health Organization is to reverse the spread of tuberculosis by 2015;

Whereas the enactment of the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–293; 122 Stat. 2918) and the Comprehensive Tuberculosis Elimination Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–392; 122 Stat. 4195) provides an historic United States commitment to the global eradication of tuberculosis, including a commitment to successfully treating 4,500,000 tuberculosis patients and 90,000 MDR-TB patients between 2008 and 2013 and to providing additional treatment through coordinated multilateral efforts;

Whereas the United States Agency for International Development provides financial and technical assistance to nearly 40 highly burdened tuberculosis countries, supports the development of new diagnostic and treatment tools, and is authorized to support research to develop new vaccines to combat tuberculosis;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, partnering with the other entities of the United States and individual States and territories, directs the national tuberculosis elimination program, directs essential national tuberculosis surveillance, technical assistance, and prevention activities, and supports the development of new diagnostic, treatment, and prevention tools to combat tuberculosis;

Whereas the National Institutes of Health, through its many institutes and centers, plays the leading role in basic and clinical research on the identification, treatment, and prevention of tuberculosis;

Whereas the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria provides 63 percent of all international financing for tuberculosis programs;

Whereas the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria finances—

(1) proposals worth $3,200,000,000 in 112 countries;

(2) tuberculosis treatment for 6,000,000 people; and

(3) 1,800,000 HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis services;

Whereas the prevalence and mortality rates of tuberculosis are declining in many countries with programs supported by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria; and

Whereas March 24, 2014, is World Tuberculosis Day, a day that commemorates the date in 1882 on which Dr. Robert Koch announced his discovery of Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the bacteria that causes tuberculosis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of World Tuberculosis Day to raise awareness about tuberculosis;

(2) commends the progress of anti-tuberculosis efforts by entities that include the United States Agency for International Development, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria; and

(3) reaffirms the commitment to global tuberculosis control set forth in section 4 of the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7603).

SENATE RESOLUTION 394—DESIGNATING APRIL 5, 2014, AS ''GOLD STAR WIVES DAY''

Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 394

Whereas the Senate honors the sacrifices made by the spouses and families of the fallen members of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. represents the spouses and families of the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States who have died on active duty or as a result of a service-connected disability;

Whereas the primary mission of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. is to provide services, support, and friendship to the spouses of the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas in 1945, Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. was organized with the help of Eleanor Roosevelt to assist the families left behind by the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas the first meeting of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. was held on April 5, 1945;

Whereas April 5, 2014, marks the 69th anniversary of the first meeting of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.;

Whereas the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States bear the burden of protecting the freedom of the people of the United States; and

Whereas the sacrifices of the families of the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States should never be forgotten: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 5, 2014, as ''Gold Star Wives Day'';

(2) honors and recognizes—

(A) the contributions of the members of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc.; and

(B) the dedication of the members of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. to the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to observe Gold Star Wives Day to promote awareness of—

(A) the contributions and dedication of the members of Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. to the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States; and

(B) the important role that Gold Star Wives of America, Inc. plays in the lives of the spouses and families of the fallen members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2853. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BURR, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2854. Mr. COATS (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2855. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2853. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BURR, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 28, after line 25, add the following:

SEC. 12. EXPEDITED APPROVAL OF EXPORTATION OF NATURAL GAS TO UKRAINE AND NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION MEMBER COUNTRIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3(c) of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b(c)) is amended by inserting '', to Ukraine, or to a member country of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization'' after ''trade in natural gas''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to applications for the authorization to export natural gas under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b) that are pending on, or filed on or after, the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 2854. Mr. COATS (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Insert after section 12 the following new section:

SEC. 13. PROHIBITION ON DIRECT OR INDIRECT USE OF FUNDS TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS OR AGREEMENTS WITH ROSOBORONEXPORT.

(a) PROHIBITION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of an executive agency may not enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, or make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan agreement to Rosoboronexport, any subsidiary or affiliate of Rosoboronexport, or any domestic or foreign entity that has a business relationship with Rosoboronexport or any subsidiary or affiliate of Rosoboronexport related to the design, manufacture, or sale of military equipment.

(2) TERMINATION OF EXISTING CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS.—The head of each executive agency shall immediately terminate any contract, memorandum of understanding, cooperative agreement, loan, or loan agreement described in paragraph (1).

(b) REPROGRAMMING AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may reprogram funds appropriated or otherwise made available for Economic Support Fund assistance or security assistance for the government of a country that, on or after the date of the enactment of this Act, enters into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, or makes a grant to, or provides a loan or loan agreement to Rosoboronexport, or any subsidiary or affiliate of Rosoboronexport, in an amount up to or equal to the total amount of each such contract, memorandum of understanding, cooperative agreement, loan, or loan agreement.

(2) NOTIFICATION.—The President shall notify Congress not later than 15 days before reprogramming funds under paragraph (1).

(c) EXECUTIVE AGENCY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''executive agency'' has the meaning given the term in section 133 of title 41, United States Code.

SA 2855. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2124, to support sovereignty and democracy in Ukraine, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike section 13.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that a hearing has been scheduled before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2014, at 10 a.m., in room SD–366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The Committee will conduct a hearing entitled ''Importing Energy, Exporting Jobs. Can It Be Reversed?''

Because of the limited time available for the hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send it to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, 304 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510–6150, or by email to todd_wooten@energy.senate.gov.

For further information, please contact Todd Wooten at (202) 224–3907, Abigail Campbell at (202) 224–4905, or John Assini at (202) 224–9313.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet on March 25, 2014, at 2:30 p.m., in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Teacher Preparation: Ensuring a Quality Teacher in Every Classroom.''

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Aissa Canchola of the committee staff on (202) 224–2009.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions will meet on March 27, 2014, at 10 a.m. in room SD–430 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to conduct a hearing entitled ''Strengthening the Federal Student Loan Program for Borrowers.''

For further information regarding this meeting, please contact Aissa Canchola of the committee staff on (202) 224–2009.

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs has scheduled a hearing entitled, ''Caterpillar's Offshore Tax Strategy.'' The Subcommittee will continue its examination of the structures and methods employed by multinational corporations to allocate income outside of the United States and how such activities are affected by the Internal Revenue Code and related regulations. Witnesses will include representatives of Caterpillar Inc. and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, as well as tax experts. A witness list will be available Friday, March 28, 2014.

The Subcommittee hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 1, 2014, at 9:30 a.m., in Room 106 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. For further information, please contact Elise Bean of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations at (202) 224–9505.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I would like to announce that the Committee on Indian Affairs will meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 2, 2014, in room SD–628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a legislative hearing to receive testimony on the following bills: S. 1474, to encourage the State of Alaska to enter into intergovernmental agreements with Indian tribes in the State relating to the enforcement of certain State laws by Indian tribes, to improve the quality of life in

rural Alaska, to reduce alcohol and drug abuse, and for other purposes; S. 1570, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to authorize advance appropriations for the Indian Health Service by providing 2–fiscal-year budget authority, and for other purposes; S. 1574, to amend the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992 to facilitate the ability of Indian tribes to integrate the employment, training, and related services from diverse Federal sources, and for other purposes; S. 1622, to establish the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes; and S , the Native American Children's Safety Act. Those wishing additional information may contact the Indian Affairs Committee at (202) 224–2251.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Chris Landberg, a detailee from the State Department to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, be granted floor privileges for the duration of the consideration of any legislation related to Ukraine, including S. 2124, Support for the Sovereignty, Integrity, Democracy, and Economic Stability of Ukraine Act of 2014. The original request comes from my colleague standing here, Chairman BOB MENENDEZ from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

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

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 2149

Mr. REID. I understand S. 2149 is due for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2149) to provide for the extension of certain unemployment benefits, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I object to my own request to have a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be read for a second time on the next legislative day.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, just alerting everyone, we have a lot to do this week. We have to have some finality on the Ukraine matter, we have SGR—and we are waiting for the House to take some action on that—and we have unemployment compensation. Then we have a number of things we have to do during the next 2 weeks of this work period. We are going to have to finish those I just outlined now, which means that if we can't get some way forward without a lot of procedural roadblocks, we will have to be in this weekend. It is not pleasant for some people, but I have alerted everyone as often as I can. We have been able to avoid the weekends, but this work period is very significant. We have a lot we have to get done. We may either have to start spending a weekend here and there or what we would have to do is just take the week we were supposed to start our Easter break and work that week. It would be a short week, but we would at least be here. So I just alert everyone so people can't come back and say, ''Why didn't you tell us?'' Because I have been saying this for—at least all day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 2014

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. tomorrow morning; that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; that following any leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each during that time, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half; that following morning business the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to the Ukraine act postcloture—again, Mr. President, 30 hours postcloture. We have done it scores of times, and it is totally wasted time, but that is what the Republicans want and that is what they get under the rules of the Senate—further, that all time during adjournment and morning business count postcloture on the motion to proceed to S. 2124.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. REID. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:09 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 25, 2014, at 10 a.m.