

the President and the Democrats in this particular circumstance is so disappointing.

Nobody around here expects Democrats and Republicans to always agree. They certainly don't expect the President to never issue a veto threat. But the President's apparent determination to obstruct everything is pretty discouraging.

If the President continues to make veto threats at the same rate he has so far, we will be looking at almost 90 veto threats by the end of 2015. The American people deserve and expect better. Americans sent a clear message in the last election. They were tired of business as usual in Washington. They want Members of Congress and the President to work together to address the challenges facing our Nation. Clearly, the President still hasn't managed to process that message.

THE PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I close, I would like to take a minute to talk about the President's foreign policy. The Congress has received the President's request for authorization for the use of military force in Iraq and Syria, and we will take a hard look at this request. But we still haven't seen a comprehensive strategy from the President for confronting and defeating ISIS. ISIS represents a barely comprehensible level of evil. Wherever its members go they leave a trail of blood. Their reign of terror in the Middle East has included the systematic persecution and murder of Christians and other minorities, rape, torture, burnings, beheadings, as well as reports of the crucifixion and burying alive of children.

Just 2 weeks ago ISIS beheaded 21 Coptic Christians in Libya. The men's only crime was professing their faith. This morning's news included reports of another 90 Assyrian Christians being abducted by ISIS from a village in northern Syria.

My heart sinks each time I hear any report of abductions of this nature because we know the fate that is likely in store for these people. Evil like this cannot be ignored. It must be confronted. The United States should be a leader in the effort to defeat this hellish organization and its reign of brutality.

The President should have articulated a plan for responding to ISIS months ago, but, unfortunately, his lack of decision is par for the course when it comes to this administration's foreign policy. Time and again, the President has been confronted with a foreign policy crisis and has simply failed to respond. That needs to end now. With crises multiplying around the world, it is time for the President to step up and start leading. We cannot afford for him to sit on the sidelines any longer.

I yield the floor.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m., with all other provisions of the previous order remaining in effect.

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:27 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, Senators are permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. BENNET. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes as in morning business.

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

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, this week marks the final week of Black History Month, an annual tradition that celebrates Black history and culture but also is a call to action to continue our Nation's march, as halting as it sometimes is, toward equality.

This week we take an important step toward awarding a Congressional Gold Medal to the foot soldiers who participated in Bloody Sunday, Turnaround Tuesday, or the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March. Senator SCOTT and I and Senators SHELBY and SESSIONS and the banking committee moved forward on that earlier today. I am proud to be one of the 65 cosponsors. I am also introducing a resolution this week instructing the Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp honoring the 50th anniversary of the Selma marches.

It is far past time for us to honor the brave men and women who risked life and limb to demand full participation in our democracy. We can do this on

the Senate floor. We can do it by traveling to Selma. Next week Senator SCOTT and I will lead a delegation to Selma for the anniversary of the march. I understand my colleague from Ohio may be joining us. I took my daughters Emily and Elizabeth there a number of years ago. I look forward to the journey to Selma with my wife in a couple of weeks, marking the 50th anniversary.

Fifty years ago, Dr. King led thousands in that 54-mile march—the second Selma bridge crossing, if you will. They arrived in Montgomery 4 days later to a crowd of 25,000 Black and White supporters. In his speech that day, Dr. King told a story of one of the marchers: Sister Pollard, a 70-year-old African-American woman who lived in Montgomery during the bus boycott a little less than a decade earlier.

She was asked if she wanted a ride during the march instead of walking. She said: "No."

The person said: "Aren't you tired?" She said: "My feet are tired, but my soul is rested."

Progress is never easy, and as we celebrate Black History Month, we are reminded of the long journey we have traveled and how far we still have to go.

This month we celebrate the contributions African Americans have made to the fabric of our Nation.

When Carter G. Woodson started what became Black History Month in 1926, my State of Ohio—the Presiding Officer's State—had already produced 19th-century poet Paul Laurence Dunbar; Columbus native Granville T. Woods had already invented the telegraph device that sent messages between moving trains and train stations; Mary Jane Patterson had already become the first Black woman to graduate from Oberlin College, in my part of Ohio; Garrett Morgan, a Cleveland, had already invented the traffic signal; Ohio State Representative John P. Green had introduced a bill to establish Labor Day in Ohio, which later became Labor Day, which we all celebrate; and COL Charles Young, who found freedom in Ripley, OH, in the Presiding Officer's old congressional district, became the highest ranking African-American commanding officer in the U.S. Army in 1894—120 years ago—and the first African-American superintendent of a national park.

This month we celebrate these and other pioneering Ohioans: two Pulitzer Prize winners—Nobel Prize-winning writer Toni Morrison from Lorain and former Poet Laureate of the United States Rita Dove from Akron.

Olympic Gold Medalist Jesse Owens grew up in Cleveland. Jesse Owens spoke at my brother's high school graduation in Mansfield.

Howard Arthur Tibbs from Salem served with the Tuskegee Airmen, and I was honored to meet his family in 2007 when this body posthumously awarded him the Congressional Gold Medal.