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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who remembers the weary, lift Your hand and we shall live. You are King forever, hearing the desires of the discouraged and encouraging them.

Today, lead our Senators, and may their labors honor You. Use their talents to bring concord to Capitol Hill. Lord, make our lawmakers instruments of Your prevailing providence. Give them a spirit of peace, even in the midst of life's storms. May they follow Your example of sacrificial service, striving to commit themselves to justice and truth. Place Your truth in their minds, Your love in their hearts, and Your compassion on their lips.

Lord, make us all instruments of Your will on Earth, upholding us with Your righteous right hand.

We pray in Your Holy 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 PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The majority leader is recognized.

CYBERSECURITY INFORMATION SHARING BILL AND FISCAL AGREEMENT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate voted overwhelming

to pass another piece of important legislation for our country. By a vote of 74 to 21, the Senate said yes to protecting the private information of every American. The significant bill we passed would do so through the sharing of threat information from cyber attacks.

It couldn't have passed without the hard work of Senators from both sides of the aisle. I particularly thank Senator McCAIN, Senator RON JOHNSON, and Senator TOM CARPER, who worked hard to move this bill forward. I appreciate in particular the outstanding work of our chairman, Senator BURR from North Carolina, and our vice chair, Senator FEINSTEIN from California. They worked together seamlessly to move this challenging bill forward.

It is worth noting something the vice chair recently said. She said: "One of the things I've learned from two prior bills of this type is that if you really want to get a bill done, it's got to be bipartisan—particularly a bill that's technical and difficult and hard to put together."

After watching the Senate fail to act on cyber threat information sharing for years, the new Senate majority resolved to move forward instead. As our Democratic colleague from California put it, "We stood shoulder to shoulder and the right things happened."

Yesterday's bipartisan vote was an important step forward for our country. It represents the new Senate's latest notable accomplishment on behalf of the American people. We remain determined to keep pushing ahead as Congress continues its work to send a strong cyber security bill to the President's desk.

On another matter, the House will soon consider the fiscal agreement. After the House acts, the Senate will take up the measure. Republicans approached the recent fiscal negotiations with several goals: No. 1, reject the tax increases proposed by Democrats; No. 2, secure long-term savings via struc-

tural entitlement reforms; and No. 3, protect our troops and strengthen national security. The agreement pending before the House meets those goals. It is not perfect—far from it—but here is what we know: It is offset with other cuts and savings. It would enact the most significant reform to Social Security since 1983, resulting in \$168 billion in long-term savings. It would repeal more of ObamaCare. It would provide greater certainty to our military planners to help ensure readiness and preparedness for our troops.

At a time of diverse and challenging global threats, when we see ISIL consolidating gains in Iraq and Syria and Russian aircraft flying over Syria as the forces of Assad march alongside Iranian soldiers and Hezbollah militias, the importance of this cannot be overstated.

Our All-Volunteer Force loyally goes into harm's way, and our commanders tell us that additional resources are required to ensure their safety and preparedness.

I urge my colleagues to consider these important issues as they continue to examine the agreement. We plan to consider it after the House acts.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

BUDGET AGREEMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, our goals regarding the budget agreement were to make sure that we got rid of sequestration—we did that for 2 years—and that we had a treatment in this legislation where defense, which is so important to our country, is treated no better or no worse than nondefense. We accomplished that.

We are months behind in the appropriations process because the Republican leader decided he was going to

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



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