United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 166 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020 *No. 72*

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, April 17, 2020, at 11 a.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020

The Senate met at 3:02 and 16 seconds p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROY BLUNT, a Senator from the State of Missouri.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 16, 2020.

To the Senate:

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

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BLUNT thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized, notwithstanding the order for a pro forma session today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 1 week ago, I warned that the Paycheck Protection Program was running out of money and tried to pass a clean funding bill. Senate Democrats blocked it.

So here we are a week later with absolutely no progress. This morning the program ran out of money and shut down, just as I warned a week ago. Even now, Senate Democrats are still blocking funding. Every Senate Republican was ready to act today—today—but Democrats have not let us reopen the program.

So, look, it is absolutely surreal to see Democratic leaders treat support for workers and small businesses as something they need to be goaded—goaded—into supporting. This really should be above politics.

Five million more Americans lost their jobs just last week. That makes 20 million layoffs in just 1 month. Americans need Democrats to stop blocking emergency paycheck money and let this job-saving program reopen. I hope our colleagues will come around soon.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Now, Mr. President, as if in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that the order of March 26 with respect to Executive Calendar No. 556 be modified to occur on Monday, May 4, with all other provisions of the previous order remaining in effect.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2020, THROUGH MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020

Mr. MCCONNELL. So, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for pro forma sessions only with no business being conducted on the following dates and times; and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the next pro forma session: Monday, April 20, 2 p.m.; Thursday, April 23, 5:30 p.m.; Monday, April 27, 8 a.m.; and Thursday, April 30, 1 p.m.

I further ask unanimous consent that when the Senate adjourns on Thursday, April 30, it next reconvene at 3 p.m. Monday, May 4; and that following the prayer and 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, and morning business be closed; further, upon the closing of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the Feitel nomination, under the previous order; finally, I ask to renew the appointments authority of the order of March 26.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

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