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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 2020, at 10:30 a.m.

Senate

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2020

The Senate met at 2 and 3 seconds p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MICHAEL B. ENZI, a Senator from the State of Wyoming.

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 20, 2020.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL B. ENZI, a Senator from the State of Wyoming, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ENZI 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, it has now been 4 days since the Paycheck Protection Program ran out of money. Republicans have been trying to secure more funding for this critical program for a week and a half now. At this hour, our Democratic colleagues are still prolonging their discussions with the administration, so the Senate regretfully will not be able to pass more funding for Americans' paychecks today.

However, since this is so urgent, I have asked that the Senate meet again tomorrow in a new session that was not previously scheduled, and the Democratic leader has agreed to my request.

Colleagues, it is past time—past time—to get this done for the country.

Mr. President, if I may, the Senator desires to speak for a few minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Washington is recognized.

PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I am here this afternoon to speak about the critical aspect of the paycheck act as it relates to businesses, particularly in the newspaper and broadcasting business. It is so important for us to address this issue because these are the people who are on the frontlines delivering the information to us about this crisis.

Unfortunately, in the past legislation, we did not include associations of broadcasters and newspapers under the definition, so up to several thousand newspapers and hundreds of local radio and television stations across the country are without existing programs by the small business affiliation rule to assist these companies in keeping important news print and news broadcasting staff at their jobs.

When I think about what I have learned about the coronavirus from these individuals, what I have learned about the broadcast information of nursing home problems, what I have learned about issues with Remdesivir, I all know that it came down to the local media who was telling us about it. So when I think of the headlines I am seeing—the LA Times, ''Coronavirus crisis hastens the collapse of local newspapers.''; ''Long-Struggling Local Newspapers Pushed to Brink Brought by Coronavirus''—I know it is time for us to do something to help these individuals, and I hope that we can do that soon.

We need the media—the local small media—to help us continue to communicate. After all, the basis of a democracy is about truth and transparency, and they are helping to build a community of truth and transparency. We need to help them during this crisis.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020, THROUGH THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for a pro

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

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