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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CINDY HYDE-SMITH, a Senator from the State of Mississippi.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, in these difficult and challenging times, remind us that the Earth belongs to You, and You have not abandoned it. Unite us with the understanding that You are our Father, and we are all members of the human family. We pray for all who have been impacted by the pain of this crisis season. Use our Senators to make the weak strong, the sick healthy, and the broken whole. Lord, surround those who have been shaken by anguish with Your divine presence and peace.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 4, 2020.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CINDY HYDE-SMITH, a Senator from the State of Mississippi, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday evening, the Senate passed a few targeted changes so that Senator COLLINS' and Senator RUBIO's historic Paycheck Protection Program will continue to protect American workers and small businesses through this pandemic.

Back in March, these Senate leaders hand designed this plan to push unprecedented assistance to working families and Main Street businesses. Once again, in April, they led the charge to refill their popular and successful program with more money so it could help even more Americans. In the weeks since, our colleagues have continued to track the program's operation and recommend further tweaks where necessary.

In recent days, both Senator COLLINS and Senator RUBIO helped to strengthen and improve the House's proposed PPP modifications before it actually passed the bill and sent it over to us, and I know the senior Senators from Maine and Florida have already identified several more technical fixes for the new legislation that, I hope, Congress will address.

Talk about legislation making a difference. Thanks to Senator COLLINS, Chairman RUBIO, and our other colleagues who helped to make this program a success, the PPP has delivered more than a half a trillion dollars in relief and has literally saved tens of millions of American jobs.

So, as we continue to stay nimble and continue our efforts, I just had to thank and recognize the architects of this historic program—the senior Senators from Maine and Florida—for helping to soften the blow of this pandemic for so many American families.

CHINA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on an entirely different matter, today marks the 31st anniversary of the Tiananmen Square massacre in Beijing.

Because of China's censorship and disinformation, we still do not know how many brave Chinese people were killed by their own government on June 4, 1989. Conservative estimates say hundreds. Others say thousands—a burst of violence against peaceful democracy protesters, weeks of arrests, roundups, and executions, and then total silence.

Never since have the Chinese people been able to freely and openly remember the atrocity. Never outside the oasis of Hong Kong has a single formal gathering on Chinese soil been permitted to commemorate the victims. Now even that oasis of freedom is at risk. We learned this week that, under new pressure from Beijing, Hong Kong is refusing to permit the annual candlelight vigil for the first time ever. This year, the Chinese Communist Party wants no candles lit even in Hong Kong—just more darkness.

It was 31 years ago that brave Chinese flooded that public square and others across their nation in the fervent hope that economic liberalization would also lead to a less authoritarian, more open society. What they got were bodies littering the ground.

A shocked world sanctioned the PRC, but as time passed, the world relaxed somewhat and returned to a strategy of welcoming China into our global public square, bringing the PRC into international institutions in the hope that an included China would actually play by the rules. Time and again, those

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