United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 166 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2020 *No. 139*

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, August 7, 2020, at 10 a.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2020

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our star of hope, continue to be the light that enables us to see the way. Lead our lawmakers to accomplish Your work on Earth, making them Your agents for justice, truth, and freedom. Inspire them to be stewards of Your will as You answer their cries for help. Lord, listen to their fervent prayers as they wait expectantly for Your deliverance. Keep our Senators on the right path of Your prevailing providence, and surround them with the shield of Your love. Defend them with Your heavenly grace, and give them the courage to face perils with total trust in You.

We pray in Your sovereign 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. LOEFFLER). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute in morning business.

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

HEALS ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, watch the news or read the newspapers, and you will know that there are a lot of deliberations going on to help with the problems that we have of people being unemployed, the pandemic we are fighting, and getting the economy up and running. While those negotiations are going on, every once in a while, some of us on this side of the aisle try to get things to help people who have needs.

A few days ago, the Democratic leader objected to one of these attempts, which was a short-term extension of the Federal unemployment supplement that was created by this body as part of the CARES Act. Remember, the CARES Act passed unanimously by this body back in March. Those things are running out, and we are trying to get them extended. This effort to get this short-term extension was to provide for Americans who need the continued help while talks continue about a longer extension and even more relief.

Common sense ought to play a role. There doesn't seem to be any downside to a temporary extension, but there apparently was a political upside to the other side's blocking it. I hope we can work together and that the Democratic leader will let his Members work with their Republican colleagues on a path forward. This partisan ''my way or the highway'' approach just doesn't work, particularly in a body in which it takes 60 votes to get things done. These objections are not how we got the CARES Act passed in the first place, and it is not how we will continue to deliver for the American people now if we don't get more cooperation.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

BEIRUT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, first, I extend the Senate's condolences to the people of Lebanon following yesterday's horrific explosion in Beirut. Reports indicate that at least 100 have died and that more than 4,000 others were injured.

The Lebanese people have seen more than their share of tragedy—civil war, Syrian occupation, terrorism and assassination, sectarian violence, economic and political corruption, the burden of caring for more than a million refugees fleeing Syria.

Now, unfortunately, once again, in the wake of great tragedy, the Lebanese Armed Forces will have to demonstrate they serve the state of Lebanon and its people, not a political party or sect. Since the end of Syrian occupation, the LAF has demonstrated it can be a unifying and national force, largely free from sectarianism that corrodes other Lebanese institutions. Now it must do so again.

The people of Beirut are beginning the hard work of rebuilding their city. Their nation continues its hard work to restore its democracy and sovereignty. On these fronts, the Senate

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

Printed on recycled paper.