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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 11, 2020, at 12 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2020

The Senate met at 3 p.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, who rules the raging of the sea, we seek Your face in these turbulent times.

Lord, help us to so live that the generations to come will know of Your mighty acts.

Today, give our lawmakers the hearts to seek, find, and follow Your will so that their legacy will be exemplary. Guide them in the path You have created, inspiring them with the potency of Your powerful presence. May they trust Your laws of sowing and reaping, knowing that they will receive a bountiful harvest if they persevere. Keep them from underestimating the power of Your great 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 (Mr. CRAPO). The Senator from Iowa.

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

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

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today our national public health and economic crisis continues without additional legislative action. Reports over the weekend indicate that the Senate minority leader believes that he can hold out for a massive, unwieldy bill that even includes unrelated policies, yet refuse to consider action where there is already consensus. The New York Times reported that the Speaker ''believes she has the upper hand'' and ''does not intend to lose it.''

The other side refuses to support even the relief measures where there is broad bipartisan agreement, such as providing additional funds for unemployment benefits, the Paycheck Protection Program, education, State and local governments, recovery checks, and hiring and employee-retention incentives. This shows us where their priorities are—politics, not people. That is a shame.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I had hoped that this week the Senate would be busy providing more coronavirus aid and that the chairmen and ranking members would be working overtime across the aisle to finalize another major pandemic relief package for the American people. After all, there are so many important ways in which American families need help and which Democrats say they see as big priorities, just like Republicans do—priorities like continuing a Federal add-on to unemployment insurance, more tools for schools to safely reopen, more access to testing and diagnostics, more resources to develop vaccines and treatments, a new round of checks to put cash in families' hands ASAP, and another round of the hugely successful Paycheck Protection Program that small businesses have relied on, which was left out of the Democrats' proposal.

All of these things and many more were in Senate Republicans' trillion-dollar proposal for another coronavirus rescue package focused on kids, jobs, healthcare, and legal protections to help our country reopen.

So I had hoped the Senate would be spending this week turning a major agreement into law, but sadly for the country, sadly for struggling Americans, the Speaker of the House and the Senate Democratic leader decided we would not deliver any of that—none of it.

For weeks, Speaker PELOSI and the Democratic leader in the Senate stalled and stalled in backroom negotiations with the administration's team. For weeks—weeks—they held up important aid over non-COVID-related demands. They stayed true to their

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

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