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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, September 11, 2020, at 1 p.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 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.

O God, who sits on a lofty throne, we acknowledge Your sovereignty over our Nation and world. Keep us from becoming so desensitized to falsehoods that we abort Your plan for our lives.

Lord, we are unworthy to approach Your throne, for we are merely sinners saved by Your loving grace. Remove our guilt and forgive our sins. May we respond to Your forgiveness by obeying Your command for us to pray for our Nation.

Lord, use our Senators today as messengers of truth, unity, and peace. Inspire them to stand for right regardless of the consequences.

We pray in Your holy 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. HYDE-SMITH). 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.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Today, the Senate will vote on moving forward with relief for Americans. That relief is necessary because of COVID–19.

The bill contains new funds for testing and contact tracing, aid for schools and colleges to keep our kids safe, and it also includes childcare assistance. It has more money for developing the coronavirus vaccine and treatments, funding for the Postal Service, and help for farmers. It allows for small businesses to access more Paycheck Protection Program funds with more flexibility and provides for enhanced unemployment benefits.

Now, surely these are items we can all agree on and ought to agree on right now. We know how to work together to produce results for Americans. We saw that in March when we successfully passed the CARES Act. That is a good model to follow now.

Back in March, Republicans in the Senate proposed a framework, then worked across party lines through the relevant committees to produce a consensus product that received overwhelming support in the Senate. I was glad to lead the bipartisan negotiations on the part of the Senate Finance Committee for that CARES package and have been standing ready to repeat the process if Democratic leaders would just agree to agree. Why can't we repeat the same process now?

Democrats seem to think that they can hold out until Republicans either agree to their partisan wishes or Republicans take the blame for the lack of relief. If the Democrats are right, it would be a partisan win for their party, but at the same time, it would be a tremendous loss for the American people.

Let's agree to move forward like we did last March.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11

Mr. MCCONNELL. Nineteen years ago tomorrow, thousands of our fellow Americans were murdered by terrorists. National landmarks were burning. Brave first responders in New York City, Arlington, and Pennsylvania rushed into mortal danger, putting their lives on the line to save strangers.

As the dust settled and 3,000 American families grieved their loved ones far before their time, we quickly saw there was no going back. The old world we had woken up to that Tuesday morning was gone.

We had not gone overseas in search of these monsters. These monsters came to us. These enemies would not leave our Nation alone if we declined to confront them, so as we reflect on this anniversary tomorrow, we will remember the thousands of innocent Americans who died that day and the brave servicemen and women who went on to pay the ultimate sacrifice to do justice and to prevent more attacks.

My fellow Kentuckians and I cannot be prouder of the heroes stationed on

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

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