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Senate

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.

Holy God, who desires us to prosper and experience health, give our Nation such a harvest of righteousness that our land will be filled with peace, quietness, and unity. Use our lawmakers to enable our citizens to live in safety, confidence, and peace.

As our Senators seek to serve You and country, give them the wisdom and courage to bring harmony from discord. Lord, be merciful to them as they wait with eager expectancy for Your guidance.

May they honor the promises they make, living lives that reflect the integrity of Your Kingdom.

We pray in 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. DAINES). The Senator from Iowa.

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

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

GIVING TUESDAY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving has been known as Giving Tuesday. I suppose this Giving Tuesday is receiving more attention than usual because of the virus pandemic that we have been in for the last 12 months. Like many sectors, the nonprofit industry is hurting because of COVID–19.

As part of the CARES Act passed last March, Congress enacted key provisions encouraging charitable giving to help support organizations that are being called upon more than ever to help Americans because of the virus pandemic. These charitable giving provisions that are in the CARES Act apply both to individuals who itemize their taxes and those who do not itemize.

Iowa is blessed to have an extensive network of charitable organizations that are supported by incredible volunteers who open up their pocketbooks to support their neighbors in need. This fall, Senator ERNST and I heard from at least 20 nonprofits in the Cedar Rapids area about the challenges that they face because of the pandemic and natural disasters, and also we heard of the successes they have had this year.

The work that Iowa nonprofits do is inspiring and has tremendous impact. In this season of Thanksgiving, I speak on behalf of my own State to thank these organizations, their employees, and volunteers for the hard work and services that they deliver every day of the year to Iowans in need.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, anyone who has heard me speak about coronavirus relief going back months has heard one central principle: Let's deliver right away on all the subjects where everybody agrees and argue over the rest later. The solution to this impasse has been in plain sight for a long time now for anybody willing to see it: Agree where we agree, bank that progress, make law, take a whole lot of pressure off struggling people, and then keep debating the areas where we don't agree.

There is no actual reason why the fates of commonsense policies like a second round of the job-saving Paycheck Protection Program had to be linked to the fates of fringe proposals like stimulus checks for illegal immigrants. There is no reason why the fate of funding for vaccine distribution or extending unemployment aid or legal certainties for universities should have been tied to radical ideas like paying people more not to work than essential workers earn on the job.

These linkages have been totally arbitrary, just a political decision that Democratic leaders made many months back. Democratic leaders have tried to create a narrative where it is taken for granted that the most bipartisan, commonsensical relief policies would live or die with their side's most outlandish ideas. Well, that just isn't so.

They have tried to create a dynamic where they move from one made-up number to a second slightly smaller arbitrary number and call it a meaningful concession. The truth is simple. This has always been about policy differences. We have two sides with two different visions for the best way to support our Nation through what we hope will be the last chapter of the pandemic.

That isn't new. We have disagreements all the time. Our system can handle disagreements, but both sides have to be willing to compile their

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