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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.

O God, our shield and fortress, we thank You for Your unfailing love. Look with favor upon our Senators. Guide them around the obstacles that hinder their progress, uniting them for the common good of this great land. Lord, enable them to go from strength to strength as they fulfill Your purposes for their lives in this generation. Striving to please You, help them to stand for right and leave the consequences to You. Lord, give them a sense of partnership with You in seeking Your best for all phases of our national life.

We pray in Your mighty 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. ROMNEY). The Senator from Iowa.

2020 ELECTION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, there has been a lot of finger wagging across the aisle by both Senate and House Democrats about accepting election results. Most of that has been related to whether or not Trump would concede the results of the election to Biden. But, obviously, there is somewhat of a double standard because these same Democrats are mum about a looming challenge to the certified results of the election of Iowa's Second Congressional District.

Representative-Elect Miller-Meeks won by six votes, and that was after careful recounts conducted and certified on a bipartisan basis according to Iowa law. On election night, the Democratic candidate lost. A few days later, two counties were recounted, and the Democratic candidate still lost. Then the Democratic candidate asked for a recount of all 24 counties, and after that recount, the Democratic candidate lost. A day later, the secretary of state of Iowa certified the election, just like the secretaries of state of our 50 States certified their elections in the Presidential election.

Now the Democratic opponent chose not to make a case under Iowa law to a judicial panel headed by the chief justice of Iowa, presumably because there was no legal case.

Now what happens? The next step is that candidate, under a 1969 Federal law, can ask the House of Representatives to set aside Iowa's election law and overturn Iowa's certified election results through a purely political process, which could presumably have a Democratic majority of 222 in the U.S. House overturn the votes of 400,000 Iowans.

Now, getting back to what seems to be a double standard, if Democratic leaders do not nip this in the bud now, they have no room to point fingers at any other Member of Congress.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, our bipartisan discussions are continuing to make significant headway toward another relief package for the American people. The Democratic leader, Speaker PELOSI, Leader MCCARTHY, and I have been working around the clock for several days now. The talks remain productive. In fact, I am even more optimistic now than I was last night that a bipartisan, bicameral framework for a major rescue package is very close at hand.

Well, let's face it, though, it doesn't help struggling Americans keep their jobs or endure unemployment or pay their rent or get vaccines any faster to keep hearing that we are having good discussions. What families across the country deserve—what they have needed and deserved for months now—is an outcome, another targeted relief package to get more assistance into their hands as fast as possible.

Struggling small business owners have already waited too long for a targeted second round of PPP. Laid-off workers have already waited too long to have expiring programs extended. Kids, teachers, and families have already waited too long for funding to help schools reopen safely. We have already waited too long to fully fund vaccine distributions so our scientists' historic sprint toward a safe and effective vaccine is followed up by an equally important logistical effort.

This has been an unbelievably hard year for our country. We have seen normal daily life grind to a halt and take a record-setting economy right down with it. And even as we have watched doctors, nurses, and researchers make lifesaving history, we have lost more than 300,000 Americans entirely too soon.

Like I have said, the Senate will be right here until an agreement is passed, whenever that may be. We will just continue voting. There are some more well-qualified nominees for important posts that we can confirm in the meantime. So let's finish our business for the American people.

TRIBUTE TO PHIL MAXSON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Now, on a completely different matter, Mr. President,

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