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Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon 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, ruler of all nations. As the inauguration of President-Elect Joseph Biden approaches, bless and heal America. Bless this land of amber waves of grain with the righteousness that exults nations. Heal this land of curvaceous mountains by removing from it sins that bring reproach to any people.

Lord, use our lawmakers as your servants of reconciliation and hope, empowering them to fulfill your purposes on Earth.

We pray in Your merciful 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

LETTER OF RESIGNATION

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair lays before the Senate the letter of resignation of Senator KAMALA D. HARRIS of California, which became effective at 12 noon yesterday, January 18, 2021.

Without objection, the letter is deemed read and spread upon the Journal and will be printed in the RECORD.

The letter follows:

U.S. SENATE,
January 18, 2021.

Governor GAVIN NEWSOM,
Sacramento, CA.

DEAR GOVERNOR NEWSOM: I hereby resign as Senator from the State of California, effective January 18, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. EST. As I assume my duties as Vice President of the United States, I would like to thank the people of California for the honor of serving them in the U.S. Senate over the past four years.

Sincerely,

KAMALA D. HARRIS,
U.S. Senator.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand that the Senate has received a message from the House of Representatives that it has taken action relative to impeachment, though it has not yet transmitted the article of impeachment to us.

I ask that pursuant to rule I of the Rules of Impeachment, the Secretary of the Senate notify the House that the Senate has received its message.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). So ordered.

The Senator from Iowa.

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

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

IOWA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last week, I started my annual tradition of holding Q&A's with Iowans in all 99 counties. This is my 41st consecutive year, and remember that only one meeting counts for the tally. But I hold many Q&A's in more populous counties.

For example, I was in 10 counties last week: A snow plow manufacturer in Manchester, IA, that employs over 300 Iowans and the Marshalltown High School to hear what is on the minds of young people, because they never come to my town meetings. I heard about the pandemic, the Paycheck Protection Program, commodity prices, infrastructure, and high drug prices.

I look forward to the next 89 county meetings to keep in touch with my constituents.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

PROTESTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the last time the Senate convened we had just reclaimed the Capitol from violent criminals who tried to stop Congress from doing our duty.

The mob was fed lies. They were provoked by the President and other powerful people, and they tried to use fear and violence to stop a specific proceeding of the first branch of the Federal Government which they did not like.

But we pressed on. We stood together and said an angry mob would not get veto power over the rule of law in our Nation, not even for one night.

We certified the people's choice for their 46th President.

Tomorrow, President-Elect Biden and Vice President-Elect HARRIS will be sworn in. We will have a safe and successful inaugural right here on the west front of the Capitol—the space that President Bush 41 called ''democracy's front porch.''

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

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