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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, March 8, 2021, at 12 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2021

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TINA SMITH, a Senator from the State of Minnesota.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who rules the raging of the sea, use our lawmakers to bring stability to our Nation through wise and knowledgeable leadership. Remind them to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger. Give them the wisdom to understand that moral rot within a nation can topple its government.

Lord, inspire our Senators to pursue justice, to love mercy, and to work with humility. Help them also to remember that You rescue the blameless from harm.

And, Lord, give a special blessing to Your faithful servants who worked through the night.

We pray in Your faithful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 5, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TINA SMITH, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. SMITH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

THANKING SENATE STAFF

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, first and foremost, I want to thank everyone—everyone on the floor staff who worked late into the night and into the wee hours of the morning to finish reading the Senate amendment to the American Rescue Plan.

The folks who sit up here on the dais come to work every day with a very serious job to do, helping the Senate come to life and fulfill its purpose under the Constitution. I am sure you all didn't expect that part of your job this week would entail standing on your feet and reading dense legislation for more than 10 hours straight.

I can't imagine that is anyone's idea of a good time, but, as usual, our staff took their additional duties in stride and carried them out with professionalism and grace, finishing around 3 in the morning, and you are all right back on your posts this morning.

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your service, your dedication. You are the unsung heroes of this place.

To all of the critical workers, not just those here on the dais—the clerks, the stenographers, the Capitol Police officers, the floor staff—to all of you: Thank you, thank you, thank you for your efforts yesterday and every day.

And as for our friend from Wisconsin, I hope he enjoyed his Thursday evening.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, a year ago this week, Congress began work on what would become the CARES Act, the opening salvo in a yearlong battle against what, at the time, was a strange and new disease. I don't think anyone could have anticipated that a year hence we would have lost more than 10 million jobs and over half a million citizens.

Even as the vaccine makes its way across the country, and hope shimmers on the horizon, millions of Americans

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

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