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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Lord of the harvest, we continue to seek You, for we desire to do Your will. You, O God, are our light and salvation, so we refuse to be afraid.

As our lawmakers strive to walk uprightly, provide them with a harvest of truth, justice, and integrity. May they cultivate such ethical congruence that their rhetoric will be undergirded by right actions. Lord, keep them aware of Your continuous presence, as they find fullness of joy in doing Your will. Show them the path to life, as Your truth brings them to a safe harbor.

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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The minority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Republican leader will be here shortly. I have gotten word he is not going to be here right now, so I am going to proceed.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. REID. This past weekend, Republican Presidential hopeful Donald Trump did what he did best: He said

something dishonest and really distasteful. In speaking about the senior Senator from Arizona, he mocked Senator JOHN MCCAIN, mocked his service in the Vietnam conflict. He went so far as to say JOHN MCCAIN was not a war hero.

JOHN MCCAIN and I came to the House of Representatives the very same day, both new Members of the House. He was representing a district in Arizona and I my district in Nevada. We are neighbors. We served together in the House. We came here to the Senate at the same time. He is one notch ahead of me in seniority in this body because the State of Arizona has more people than Nevada. That is how seniority is determined, among other ways.

JOHN MCCAIN was a naval pilot and comes from a family who served our country admirably in the military for decades—his grandfather and his father. On one of his first missions to Vietnam, JOHN MCCAIN was shot down and badly injured—broken back and arms. He was very badly hurt. He was placed in a Vietnamese concentration camp, where he spent almost 6 years. About half of that time was in solitary confinement, and many days and weeks of that were spent being punished, tortured, and rebreaking parts of his body that had been broken.

JOHN MCCAIN, to me, is a hero. He is a person who has represented this country admirably in the Congress. He was a Republican nominee for President. America knows JOHN MCCAIN. I personally have some disagreements on policy on an occasion or two with JOHN MCCAIN, but we have never disagreed about our relationship. My relationship with Senator MCCAIN is one where I have great admiration for him, for his strength of character, and for his moral courage in Vietnam.

In the aftermath of these remarks about JOHN MCCAIN, Republicans have been falling all over themselves to criticize Donald Trump. But it makes

me wonder: Where were all these same Republicans when Mr. Trump slandered millions? It was only a month ago that Trump said:

When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best. They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists.

That is his quote.

When Trump insulted the Senator from Arizona, a Member of his own party, Republicans could not denounce him fast enough, but when Trump called immigrants "rapists," there was nothing but silence—nothing but silence. There is an ugly truth behind that silence, and it is this: When it comes to immigration policy—and, frankly, most other policy—there is no meaningful difference between the Republican Party and Donald Trump. Consider the facts on just this one issue. Trump rejects a pathway to citizenship for the undocumented. Instead, he favors a system of merit that creates a road to legal status. He has never ever said two sentences defining that.

We have heard before the same kind of talk from Republicans, those running for President—I think we have 16 of them now.

Jeb Bush rejects the pathway to citizenship. He claims to support a pathway to legal status but "not necessarily citizenship."

Scott Walker rejects a pathway to citizenship. He said, "If somebody wants to be a citizen, they need to go back to their country of origin."

The junior Senator from Texas also rejects a pathway to citizenship. He said, "I think that it is likely that there could be some bipartisan solution to those who are here illegally if a path to citizenship were taken off the table."

Governor Chris Christie rejects a pathway to citizenship, too. He said it is "an extreme way to go."

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



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