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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BEN SASSE, a Senator from the State of Nebraska.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God most high, we know not what a day will bring forth—sorrow or joy—but our eyes are on You.

Sustain our Senators in their work. Give them the wisdom to repay Your Grace with the currency of their gratitude. Lead them to bear the burdens of the marginalized and so fulfill the law of love.

Lord, teach them anew the meaning of faith, hope, and love. Give them even tempers that can meet upsetting things with calm serenity.

Lord, keep them from being ashamed of that which they should be proud and proud of that which they should be ashamed.

We pray in Your powerful 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. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 25, 2017.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable BEN SASSE, a Senator from the State of Nebraska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SASSE thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

ISSUES BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday, the Senate confirmed former Georgia Governor Sonny Perdue to lead the Department of Agriculture.

We also took the next step in advancing Rod Rosenstein to serve as Deputy Attorney General. I look forward to confirming Mr. Rosenstein so he can get to work without further delay.

After we take that vote, we will be able to advance the Department of Labor nominee, Alexander Acosta. Mr. Acosta has an impressive background that will serve him well as he leads the Department on issues that can support America's employers and employees as well as the overall economy.

I am pleased Mr. Acosta has outlined his commitment to ensuring that the Department of Labor encourages, rather than hampers, job growth—a welcome change after 8 years of job-killing and opportunity-destroying rules and regulations under the Obama administration. I encourage my colleagues to support his nomination so he can begin this important work to help create jobs, enhance workforce development, and support middle-class workers.

As we advance these nominees, Senators are also continuing discussions on government funding legislation. These talks have been part of a bipartisan, bicameral process from the start, with appropriators having continued

negotiations over the State work period. I look forward to more productive conversations with Senators, our House colleagues, and the White House so we can get this important work done quite soon.

DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, many decades ago, historic tragedy befell a continent, and unimaginable horror visited a people.

Behind cold steel gates and within huddled boxcars, man's capacity for cruelty reached grim new frontiers. An inhuman campaign of extermination by an inhuman regime not only took aim at the Jewish people but also tore deep at the collective bonds of our humanity. The scars of the Holocaust continue to run deep in the sinew of our history and of our humanity. It must never be repeated. It also must never be forgotten.

Today, the President of the strongest Nation in the world will again join with survivors in the Capitol Rotunda to help ensure it never is.

Today's Days of Remembrance ceremony serves as yet another reminder of the immeasurable suffering that was inflicted upon millions of innocent men, women, and children during the Holocaust, especially the Jewish people. It also serves as a reminder of our responsibility as free people to stand against evil and defend those who are persecuted.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

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



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