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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.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 Universe, we find our joy from trusting You. Today, we trust in Your promise to supply all our needs from Your glorious riches in Heaven. As we differ in faces, so we are different in our needs. Provide for our needs from the riches of Your grace.

Lord, surround our lawmakers with the shield of Your Divine favor. Remind them that they wrestle against forces that are often stronger and more determined than they may imagine. Help them to claim Your promise that You will not withhold any good thing from those who do what is right. Inspire our Senators to call on You in all of life's seasons.

We pray in Your great 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 PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

The majority whip.

NOMINATION OF BRETT KAVANAUGH

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, it is hard for me to believe, but it has only been 2 weeks since I was at the White House, along with many of our other colleagues, to await the President's an-

nouncement of who would fill the Supreme Court vacancy left by the retirement of Justice Anthony Kennedy. At that time, the President had said he had narrowed the candidates to a field of four, all of whom were well known and well qualified.

I was personally pleased that he had selected Judge Brett Kavanaugh, a candidate whom I had been proud to introduce and support early in my career in the Senate when he was nominated and confirmed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit. That would have been back in 2006. His academic background, his longstanding experience in public service, and his now 12-year record of faithfully applying the law as an appellant judge on the DC Circuit Court of Appeals, I believe, make him exactly the type of jurist we should want to serve on our Nation's highest Court.

We know the attacks already began even before the nominee was announced. To me, that was the most telling thing of all. One leftwing group's literal fill-in-the-blank press release confirmed all of the terrible things that nominee xx was going to do when nominee xx was nominated to the Supreme Court. Last week, the leader rightfully referred to this as the "fill-in-the-blank" opposition. If you can come out with such certainty and such vigor against an unnamed nominee, it looks to me like you really don't have an open mind in the first place.

Now Judge Kavanaugh's name has been filled in, and the attacks have been more direct and more personal. They have attempted to attack his qualifications, but that has sputtered out pretty quickly given that Judge Kavanaugh's qualifications are unassailable. No one can argue that he is not impeccably well suited for a seat on the Nation's highest Court.

The Nation first got a glimpse of Judge Kavanaugh's character when he spoke at the White House. We heard about his being an only child who had

grown up with two hard-working parents and who still refers to his mom as being the original Judge Kavanaugh because of her service on the State court bench in Maryland. We heard about his being a loving father of two daughters and being referred to as "Coach K" because of the coaching of his daughters' basketball teams. We also heard about his being a public servant who has been devoted to supporting his community and living out his faith. Yet let's set all of these character traits aside for a moment because, in the end, these aren't the primary measures we will use to confirm this nomination.

Judge Kavanaugh graduated with honors from Yale College. He attended Yale Law, and he clerked for two Federal appellate judges before clerking for Justice Kennedy on the U.S. Supreme Court. He then went on to private practice, and, from there, he went to work at the White House, where he started in the counsel's office before becoming the Staff Secretary to President George W. Bush.

Let me pause there for a moment and remind people what the Staff Secretary does because, I suspect, there are going to be requests for a lot of documents he touched during the time he was Staff Secretary. As I understand the role of Staff Secretary at the White House, there has to be one final person who determines that a document is ready for the President's signature. Has it been properly vetted for policy statements? Is it in the correct application of whatever the current law is that pertains to that topic? More than anything else, it just has to have one final stop that tells the President: OK. We have checked all of this out. We have consulted with all of the relevant people, and this document is now ready for your signature.

In almost no case did Judge Kavanaugh generate the document or author the document. It was written by somebody else. He had merely confirmed it was in its proper shape after

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



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