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Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Honorable DEB FISCHER, a Senator from the State of Nebraska.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, the Father of light, today give our Senators the light to guide them, the courage to sustain them, and the civility to unite them. Give our lawmakers humility in prosperity and patience in adversity. Provide them with a quiet awareness of Your presence, sustaining them with Your great power.

Lord, make us all grateful for the blessings You shower upon us each day. Increase our faith until we experience peace that flows like a river in our hearts.

We pray in Your great 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, September 6, 2018.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable DEB FISCHER, a Senator from the State

of Nebraska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. FISCHER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

NOMINATION OF BRETT KAVANAUGH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, day 2 of Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation hearings proved to be a marathon session. For 13 hours, Judge Kavanaugh was grilled by our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee. Through that testing, the Senate got to see exactly why the American Bar Association deemed this nominee to be unambiguously "well qualified," which is the highest possible rating, a distinction that many of our Democratic colleagues in the past called the gold standard.

We saw precisely why he has earned such praise from accomplished legal figures, like Lisa Blatt, a self-described liberal and a leading Supreme Court litigator who proudly introduced Judge Kavanaugh before the committee; and Neal Katyal, the Obama administration's Solicitor General who said: "It's very hard for anyone who's worked with Judge Kavanaugh, appeared before him, to frankly say a bad word about him."

Judge Kavanaugh was patient and professional. His answers showed total command of everything, from the fine details of case law to the principles upon which our Founders built the Constitution.

In July, one of Judge Kavanaugh's former Yale Law School professors ex-

plained that he is "an avid consumer of legal scholarship. He reads and learns."

It certainly shows. Judge Kavanaugh's widely acclaimed temperament was on full display. He gave thoughtful, expansive answers, while also respecting the independence of the judiciary. Even as some of our Democratic colleagues seemed to forget—seemed to forget—that we are examining a potential Supreme Court Justice and not interviewing a superlegislator who will be writing his own policy preferences into law, Judge Kavanaugh remained very gracious and spoke at length about his past jurisprudence and his understanding of the role judges play in our Republic.

It was striking to contrast Judge Kavanaugh's poise, on the one hand, and professionalism with the continued unhinged—literally, unhinged—antics of the far left, which once again resorted to yelling and screaming and interrupting the hearing with nonsensical protests. The Capitol Police deserves all of our gratitude for keeping order, as does Chairman GRASSLEY for keeping the proceedings moving smoothly.

Perhaps it is finally dawning on the far left that Judge Kavanaugh is an impressive, mainstream, and brilliant nominee who almost any objective observer would agree is more than qualified to serve on the Supreme Court. Maybe that is why they are resorting to futile attempts to disrupt the proceedings. Maybe that is why no fewer than 66 individuals were removed from the hearing room for interruptions.

I will be perfectly clear about this. Hysterical stunts are not going to stop the U.S. Senate from completing its business. There is no heckler's veto here. I look forward to more excellent testimony from Judge Kavanaugh today.

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



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