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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 20, 2018, at 9:30 a.m.

Senate

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CINDY HYDE-SMITH, a Senator from the State of Mississippi.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, whose mercy is great unto the Heavens, help us to do what is right. May we not forget that You are the judge of the Earth and that we are accountable to You. Protect us from our enemies, for we place our trust in You.

Lord, sustain our Senators. Surround them with the shield of Your favor as they seek to live for Your glory. Hasten the day when the just rule of Your Kingdom shall fill the Earth with health and life and peace. Be exulted, O God, above the Heavens. Let Your glory be over the Earth.

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 18, 2018.

To the Senate.

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

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH 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, yesterday, Senator GRASSLEY announced that the Judiciary Committee will continue its hearings for Judge Brett Kavanaugh's nomination to the Supreme Court on Monday morning. Dr. Christine Blasey Ford of California and Judge Kavanaugh have both been invited to testify under oath.

Dr. Ford will have the opportunity to offer sworn testimony. She communicated with the ranking Democrat on the committee in writing nearly 7 weeks ago, but through no fault of hers, Senate Democrats chose to play politics and keep it secret throughout the entirety of Judge Kavanaugh's regular confirmation process. They sat on this information for nearly 7 weeks,

until they leaked it to the press on the eve of the scheduled committee vote.

But as my colleague, the senior Senator from Texas, said yesterday, the blatant malpractice demonstrated by our colleagues across the aisle will not stop the Senate from moving forward in a responsible manner.

As I said yesterday, I have full confidence in Chairman GRASSLEY to lead the committee through the sensitive and highly irregular situation in which the Democrats' tactics have left all of us—all of us—Judge Kavanaugh, Dr. Ford, and the entire Senate.

Dr. Ford will be heard, and, of course, Judge Kavanaugh will have the opportunity to defend himself against this accusation—an accusation that he has unequivocally denied and that stands at odds with every other piece of the overwhelming positive testimony we have received about his character from his close friends, colleagues, and law clerks, from the distant past to the present day, including the high school years during which this misconduct is alleged to have taken place.

So this alleged incident is completely at variance with his entire history. He welcomes the opportunity to address the committee about this claim.

But, colleagues, we should not have gotten to this point in this manner, at this time. That this process has played out with so little order and so little sensitivity lies solely at the feet of Senate Democrats who sought political advantage in leaking this to the press

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



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