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Senate

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Savior, You have been with this Nation from its birth. Use our lawmakers to protect and preserve it against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

Give our Senators kind hearts and humble spirits; help them to aspire to become instruments of Your purposes. Lord, guide them to find in each problem and perplexity the prelude to greater understanding and usefulness. May they seek daily to maintain their ethical, moral, and spiritual fitness.

And, Lord, sustain those who are suffering most because of this partial government shutdown.

We pray in Your Holy 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. CRAMER). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

DISAPPROVING THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL TO TAKE AN ACTION RELATING TO THE APPLICATION OF CERTAIN SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S.J. Res. 2, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 2) disapproving the President's proposal to take an action relating to the application of certain sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 12:30 p.m. will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President I ask unanimous consent that the time on the quorum call be equally divided between the two sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, one dollar—one dollar—that is the amount that the Speaker of the House said she would be willing to invest in physical barriers at our southern border—one dollar. Talk about serious, good-faith negotiations. Talk about taking borders seriously.

The men and women on the ground have been unambiguous about the cri-

sis they are facing: the entry of criminal aliens and gang members into our country, the drugs that go on to infect our communities, the ongoing humanitarian crises that are fueled by our government's mixed signals and our inability to enforce our own laws.

According to Speaker PELOSI, these urgent issues are worth about 33 cents each—33 cents. As we all know, that is because the Speaker has recently defined a brandnew dogma for the Democratic Party: Actually enforcing our immigration laws with the help of physical barriers is “an immorality”—an immorality.

That is quite the indictment of her fellow Democrats' past positions. Recent years have seen Democrats vote for billions—billions—of dollars in physical walls and fencing. Recent years have seen a Democratic administration build the same steel barriers—the very same steel barriers—that this President now wants to expand.

But these days, it seems that Democrats are happy to take their cues from the gentlelady from San Francisco and her extreme, fringe position that walls have now become immoral. Really?

Yesterday, President Trump issued yet another bipartisan invitation for Members of Congress to meet at the White House and actually negotiate. Yet, again, only Republicans came to the table.

For the American people, who deserve both a functioning government as well as a secure border, that really is not a promising sign. For Federal workers who are now stretching every dollar until Democrats lose interest in dead-end political games, the Speaker's \$1 punchline is not very entertaining.

So for everyone's sake, I hope our Democratic colleagues will reverse course and work seriously with this White House to reach an agreement that can become law and fulfill our promises to our country.

In the meantime, as the White House made clear just yesterday, cherry-picking continuing resolutions that fail to

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



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