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Senate

(Legislative day of Tuesday, January 22, 2019)

The Senate met at 11 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN HOEVEN, a Senator from the State of North Dakota.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the center of our joy, on September 11, 2001, our Nation united because of an external threat. Remind our lawmakers that nations are not only destroyed from without but from within.

As each Senator has taken an oath to protect our Constitution from all enemies, foreign and domestic, provide him or her with the guidance to passionately defend this land we love from the most subtle incursions. Lord, as some Members of our Armed Forces seek sustenance at charity food pantries and prepare to miss a second pay-day, something has to give.

Forgive us, almighty God, for our sins of commission and omission. Remind each Senator of the words of Jesus of Nazareth in Luke 10:7: "Those who work deserve their pay."

We pray in Your sovereign 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. GRASSLEY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 23, 2019.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN HOEVEN, a Senator from the State of North Dakota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST ACT OF 2019—MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the pending business.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to S. 1, a bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday, the Republican leader, my friend, announced that the Senate would hold two votes on Thursday afternoon. First, the Senate will vote on the President's proposal, and then the Senate will vote on an amendment that is essentially identical to the un-

derlying bill sent to us from the House, meaning a continuing resolution that opens the government for 3 weeks plus disaster assistance.

Let me be very clear. These two votes are not equivalent votes. It is not "on the one hand, on the other hand." The President's proposal demands a wall and radical legal immigration changes in exchange for opening up the government. The second vote demands nothing in exchange for opening up the government.

The first vote—unless you do it my way, I am keeping the government shut down—is the Trump amendment. Our amendment says: Open up the government, and then let's talk.

To say, well, one is a Democratic amendment and one is a Republican amendment doesn't get the magnitude of this. The difference is one is holding 800,000 workers hostage—millions of Americans hostage—unless the amendment authors get their way. The second vote doesn't demand anything. It just says to open up the government and then let's discuss it.

The first vote, on the President's plan, includes radical changes to our asylum system and the full funding the President asked for the border wall in exchange for reopening the government. The first vote is completely partisan. The first vote is the President's hostage-taking position codified into an amendment. It says: You must do it our way and pay \$5.7 billion for a wall before we open the government.

The second vote is the opposite. It does not demand anything before we reopen the government. It simply reopens the government for 3 weeks and allows us to continue debating border security. There is nothing partisan about the second vote. If President Trump weren't opposed to it, there would be nothing controversial about the second vote and just about every Republican would vote for it, as they did the first time, a month ago.

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



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