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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.

Most glorious and exalted God, You glorify humanity with Your love and mercy. Accept our thanksgiving for Your providential care.

Today, guide our Senators on the road of integrity. May they seek to live above reproach, striving to please You in all they think, say, and do. Lord, give them ears to hear Your divine imperatives and the courage to do them. Use them to heal the wounds in our Nation and world.

We pray in Your merciful 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH.) The majority leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, first, I want to thank and congratulate our colleagues who have been working hard to secure a bipartisan, bicameral solution to complete the appropriations process and fund the government. It had been clear to everyone that in order to reach an agreement, our Democratic colleagues would have to walk away from two extreme positions

that had been dictated to them presumably by the far left—the notion that Congress shouldn't spend more than "one dollar" on new border barriers and the idea that we should impose a hard, statutory cap on ICE detainees in the interior of our country, which would require the release of criminals into the United States.

Fortunately, our Democratic colleagues did abandon those unreasonable positions, and the negotiations were able to move forward productively. Last night, Chairman SHELBY, Senator LEAHY, and their counterparts in the House announced they have reached an agreement in principle, which is certainly good news. It provides new funds for miles of new border barriers, and it completes all seven outstanding appropriations bills, so Congress can complete a funding process for all the outstanding parts of the Federal Government with predictability and with certainty.

I know I speak for Members on both sides of the aisle when I say that we are grateful to our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee for their leadership. We are eager to see them complete this work. As we speak, our colleagues are working hard to produce legislative text. I look forward to reviewing the full text as soon as possible and hope the Senate can act on this legislation in short order.

S. 47

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday the Senate advanced S. 47, the Natural Resources Management Act, and later today we will vote to pass it. The lands bill is the product of over 100 pieces of legislation addressing the management and preservation of some of our Nation's most precious natural areas. It touches every State, features the input of a wide coalition of our colleagues, and has earned the support of a broad, diverse coalition of many advocates for public lands, economic development, and conservation.

I am especially proud that the bill will take action on key priorities for my own State, from protecting national monuments, to preserving the legacy of historically Black colleges and universities, to helping local communities fight invasive species.

The fact that we are about to push this comprehensive package across the finish line is a credit to the dedicated efforts of Chairman MURKOWSKI and Ranking Member MANCHIN. From the outset, S. 47 has benefitted from good-faith, bipartisan efforts at the committee level and here on the floor. I look forward to voting to pass the bill later this afternoon. I am going to do so enthusiastically for the people of Kentucky and for communities across the Nation.

H.R. 1

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on one final matter, last week the House began the hearing process on Speaker PELOSI's signature bill, H.R. 1, the Democrat Politician Protection Act. I have already touched on several of its outlandish and problematic provisions. What I want to do today is focus on one corner of the craziness. It is the wild idea that what American politics today is really missing is a big taxpayer bailout of political campaigns, attack-ad makers, and campaign consultants.

For everyone who is now convinced they must have misheard what I just said, let me say five of those words again: taxpayer bailout for political campaigns.

It is really something. Democrats have spent months, if not years, crafting this sprawling, 500-plus page Federal takeover of our political speech and our elections. They had all the time in the world to carefully choose each provision and tailor their political strategy, but even after all that, my colleagues in the House Democratic conference are so Washington-centric in their thinking and so

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



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