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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 PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Pastor Eddie Edmonds of Moler Avenue Church of the Brethren from Martinsburg, WV.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Creator God, we give You thanks and praise for the phenomenal country in which we live, move, and have our being. Our thanks also for the men and women You have called to serve in this government and specifically the Senate. Our prayer is that You will equip, empower, and encourage each individual Senator as they work to answer the call to serve the people of this great Nation. Their decisions impact the lives of not only those they serve but also people the world over. Help them to remember those who have little, need much, and are challenged each day of their lives. Give each Senator strength to make wise decisions and the courage to stand up in the face of adversity, doing the right thing, first time, every time, putting others first in each decision rendered. May Your peace fill the lives of each Senator and those they serve until You come again to claim Your Kingdom.

We pray in the Most Holy Name of Christ Jesus our Lord. 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.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 483 and S.J. RES. 8

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I understand there are two measures at the desk due a second reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the title of the measures for the second time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 483), to enact into law a bill by reference.

A bill (S.J. Res. 8) recognizing the duty of the Federal Government to create a Green New Deal.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, in order to place the measures on the calendar under provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The measures will be placed on the calendar under rule XIV.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, last night, our colleagues Chairman SHELBY and Ranking Member LEAHY filed the final text of a bipartisan, bicameral legislative agreement. For the past couple of weeks, in conference with their House counterparts, they have worked in good faith to reach a compromise to address urgent priorities, including funding for our Nation's border security.

The product of this work is a compromise that no side will view as a perfect deal. For instance, I am frustrated by House Democrats' cynical opposition to including commonsense extensions of the Violence Against Women Act and other important items. Nevertheless, this agreement is something

both sides should view as an important step, and today, I hope we will vote to advance it.

When the Senate votes on the agreement, we will be voting to avoid a second partial shutdown and provide the certainty of a fully functioning Federal Government. We will be voting to deliver another downpayment on the President's commitment to securing our Nation's borders and keeping American communities safe. And we will do it free from the influence of poison pills that sought to derail progress and stifle compromise.

To be sure, in recent months, we have seen the radical left go out of its way to try to gum up the works. Even the Speaker of the House threw her support behind wild assertions that tried-and-true methods of securing sovereign borders were now immoral. They said there wouldn't be more than one dollar for border barriers. They said there should be fewer tools for the men and women who enforce our immigration laws. Fortunately, none of that nonsense has carried the day.

So here we are, with a solemn deal in front of us. As the Senate prepares to vote later today, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to Chairman SHELBY, along with Ranking Member LEAHY and my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee. This legislation will mark success for our bipartisan process by finalizing all the regular appropriations bills for the fiscal year. Thanks, as well, to Shannon Hines and the entire Appropriations staff, whose hard work made this agreement and all of last year's progress possible.

Later today, I hope each of my colleagues will join me in moving forward with the agreement produced by this hard work, and the President will sign it into law.

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



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