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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.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 God, You have been our home through all the generations. Before the mountains were created, You are God, without beginning or end. Receive our prayers today and grant our lawmakers the mature wisdom to act as servants of this Nation that You have blessed with freedom. Inspire our Senators to be kind but firm, compassionate but resolute, possessed of quiet hearts, clear minds, and sound judgment. Lord, show them Your approval and give them success. Provide them with the strength and courage of those whose minds are focused on You.

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. HAWLEY). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will re-

sume consideration of H.R. 268, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 268) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Shelby amendment No. 201, in the nature of a substitute.

McConnell amendment No. 213 (to amendment No. 201), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 214 (to amendment No. 213), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell amendment No. 215 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 201), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 216 (to amendment No. 215), of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for 3 minutes for three different short remarks.

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

H.R. 268

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, the Senate will soon vote on the disaster spending bill. That bill contains funds for the 2018 hurricanes and wildfires and renews the extra funds for nutrition assistance in Puerto Rico, which is about to expire.

The Senate amendment also expands eligibility to include ongoing Midwest floods like we presently have in Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska, but other States will have it as well.

At a time when some families in Iowa have everything that they own underwater and the people of Puerto Rico are facing a funding cliff, now is not the time to play politics with the disaster relief bill.

To my colleagues across the aisle who have been spending a lot of time in Iowa lately as Presidential candidates, if you vote against moving forward with the Shelby amendment, how are you going to look Iowans in the eye and justify a vote against moving this disaster relief bill ahead?

TARIFFS

Mr. President, now I will talk about trade. I am calling on the administration, specifically on President Trump, to promptly remove section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from Canada and Mexico. This will help to clear the path for the USMCA agreement and have it ratified not just in the Congress of the United States but in all three countries.

These tariffs and the retaliations are having a negative impact on Americans. The agreement for Mexico, Canada, and the United States is supposed to be a free trade agreement, but we don't have free trade with these tariffs in place.

As Finance Committee chairman, I look forward to helping the President with this important task. I had a chance to be at the White House with several other Senators on that very same issue. I said to the President something like this: You said you put the tariffs on because Mexico and Canada weren't going to negotiate. They have negotiated. Mr. President, you say that you have a good agreement, and I agree that you do have a good agreement. They negotiated in good faith. Then, wouldn't you think that the right thing to do would be to remove the tariffs so we can move ahead?

Now, one of the important things about this is the situation in Canada more than in the United States. Their House of Commons will adjourn in June for their elections in October. This must be done in the next 2 months. Well, I guess now you would say in the next 3 months, if this is going to be done this year, and I would think the President would want to get it done this year.

HOLDS DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

Mr. President, this is my last 1-minute comment. All Senators now have a copy of my letter sent with Senator WYDEN's signature explaining the holds on nominations and bills and the disclosure of those holds and the requirements that come with such holds.

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



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