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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at 12 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, MAY 6, 2019

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.

Ruler and Redeemer, Creator and Sustainer, we pause to acknowledge Your majesty and might.

Because of You, we live and move and breathe and prosper. Lord, You continue to shower us with undeserved blessings; great is Your faithfulness. As our Senators and staffs do liberty's work, sustain them with Your might. Provide them with prudence and discretion for each task. Remind them that if You are for them, neither demons nor deviants can prevail. Help us all to focus on today's challenges and trust You to take care of our past and future. Transform discord into harmony as You hasten the day when peace will reign.

We pray in Your great 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Joseph F. Bianco, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute as in morning business.

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

NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, May has been recognized as National Foster Care Month for over 20 years to bring awareness to the challenges that foster youth face.

Through my work on the Senate Caucus on Foster Youth, I have had the opportunity to hear firsthand what children in foster care need. They need love, support, safety, and permanency. They need a family. I salute all those who dedicate their time and resources to help these kids.

In moving forward, I will continue to work to find better solutions and to se-

cure better outcomes for youth in foster care.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for an additional 1 minute as in morning business.

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

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last week, the Department of Labor released its monthly scorecard for the U.S. workforce.

The unemployment rate fell to 3.6 percent, which is the lowest rate since December 1969—a new 50-year low. Moreover, an additional 263,000 jobs were created. Job gains have averaged a robust 218,000 over the past 12 months. Additionally, for the ninth straight month, year-over-year nominal wage gains have equaled or exceeded 3 percent.

It is good to see this administration's tax reform and pro-growth policies continuing to improve the daily lives of all Americans.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The 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.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, over the weekend we were given yet another tragic reminder of the daily

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



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