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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.

Revive us, O Lord, for Your Name's sake. Fill our Senators with Your Spirit and lead them to Your desired destination. Keep them so dedicated to Your purposes that they will do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly. Equip them to bear the responsibility they cannot assign to others but must carry in the strength You provide. Give them the wisdom to be quick to listen and slow to speak as You incline their hearts to live with integrity.

Lord, may faith replace fear, truth arise over falsehood, love prevail over hate, and peace abide with us all.

We pray in Your strong 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. SASSE). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

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.

MULTIEMPLOYER PENSIONS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, Congress needs to address the crisis facing multiemployer pension plans. The Fi-

nance Committee is continuing its work on retirement income security, including those issues with the multi-employer plans.

While we work to enact the first round of reforms in the retirement savings accounts, known as RESA, which is now before the Senate, there is still more work to do. We have the benefit of the joint select committee's work on multiemployer plans last year. We know what is going on, we know what is broken, and we know the various options for repairing the system.

It is time to put pen to paper and fix these plans that will protect the workers who have paid into them.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this week we are continuing to confirm more unobjectionable nominees who had to move through the Senate more slowly than they should. Yesterday we confirmed Sarah Daggett Morrison to serve as U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio, and despite the fact that our Democratic friends forced us to file cloture on her nomination, when she finally received a vote, she was confirmed 89 to 7.

That is probably because Ms. Morrison, like the other nominees we are considering this week, is thoroughly

noncontroversial and very well-qualified for the job. Thanks to the modest reforms to the Senate rules we put in place this spring, more nominees who fit this description are being confirmed in a fraction of the time it would have otherwise taken.

So I hope the strong bipartisan support we saw yesterday will be shown to the jurists we will vote to confirm on the Federal bench today: Pamela Barker to the Northern District of Ohio; Corey Maze to the Northern District of Alabama; Rodney Smith to the Southern District of Florida; Thomas Barber to the Middle District of Florida; and Jean-Paul Boulee to the Northern District of Georgia.

Together, these nominees possess more than a century of legal experience. Their résumés include work in State attorneys' offices, as county judges, and as State solicitor general. They include a former U.S. Army defense counsel and a U.S. Supreme Court litigator. Each has demonstrated a commitment to upholding the Constitution and preserving the rule of law. Each deserves strong, bipartisan support.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on another matter, the Trump administration's new agreement with Mexico marks an important breakthrough in the ongoing border crisis. It kept harmful tariffs from going into effect and cemented new steps to make certain that immigration enforcement and the rule of law are priorities on both sides of the border.

But, of course, the Mexican Government was not the only outstanding party with an unmet responsibility to address this crisis. Right here in Congress we have been waiting for 6 weeks now—6 weeks—for our Democratic colleagues to get serious about the administration's urgent request for more resources for border security and humanitarian efforts.

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



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