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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.

Father of all, give us the wisdom to cultivate reverential awe for You. Inspired by this wisdom, empower our Senators to strive to please You. May our lawmakers remember that You are an ever-present help during turbulent times, eager to deliver those who call on Your Holy Name.

Lord, sustain our Senators with Your might. Continue to bless and keep us all. Make Your face to shine upon us and be gracious to us. Lift the light of Your countenance upon us and give us Your peace.

We pray in Your sacred 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAWLEY). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 30 seconds as in morning business, please.

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

SREBRENICA GENOCIDE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, 24 years ago radical Serb forces committed the worst genocide on European soil since the Holocaust. In and around the hallowed grounds at Srebrenica, over 8,000 Bosnians were murdered out of ethnic and religious hatred.

Iowa, my State, is now home to many Bosnians who bore witnesses to

those atrocities. I pray that they and their families find peace, as well as justice. Ethnic and religious hatred must never be tolerated, and we must not forget the victims of this crime.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate is getting started on another busy week in which we will complete more important business for the American people. We will confirm a number of well-qualified nominees, as well as a number of treaties that pertain to international commerce and keeping our economy strong.

First, the nominations. Later this afternoon, we will build on 2½ years of confirming talented, capable jurists to our Federal courts and vote to advance the nomination of Judge Peter Phipps for the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.

Judge Phipps is a graduate of the University of Dayton and Stanford Law School. His impressive professional record includes time in private practice, a clerkship on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and 15 years of decorated service with the Department of Justice.

At DOJ, while handling sensitive and high-profile cases in the Federal Programs Branch, Judge Phipps left a lasting impression on colleagues and opposing counsel alike. Litigators who worked both with him and against him have written to the Senate to praise his “piercing intellect, deep knowledge of the law . . . and personable relations with everyone in the courtroom.”

A number of his former DOJ colleagues attest that his “ability to master complex issues quickly made him the sort of lawyer other lawyers would turn to with questions or for counsel.”

Listen to this. Leon Panetta, the former Secretary of Defense to President Obama, has worked with Judge Phipps in the past and has great things to say about his “legal acumen, dedication, attention to detail, and integrity.” He says: “I believe that Peter will serve with honor and highly recommend his confirmation.” That is President Obama’s Secretary of Defense.

Given all this, it is hardly surprising that when Judge Phipps was first nominated to serve as district judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania, the Senate confirmed him on a voice vote. This body saw what everybody else had seen—an impressively qualified, intellectually excellent individual who firmly understands what the job of a judge does and does not entail in our constitutional system.

So I am sorry that this nominee who earned a voice vote to his current position will now require a cloture vote this afternoon, but, nevertheless, I look forward to voting to advance his nomination today and voting to confirm him later in the week. I urge our colleagues to join me.

Following that nomination, the Senate will tend to another of this body’s unique responsibilities—the ratification of treaties. For the better part of the last century, the United States has engaged in bilateral tax treaties with foreign trading partners. These measures cultivate robust trading relationships and put in place important clarifications to ensure that American businesses can avoid double tax burdens.

Today, America is engaged in about 60 such treaties with major allies and developing partners alike. Together, they account for literally trillions of dollars in foreign investment across our country.

This week, there are several more awaiting consideration. The Senate needs to act on treaties with Spain, the Swiss Federation, Japan, and Luxembourg. I have heard from job creators

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



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