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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.

Answer us when we call, O God, and have mercy upon our Nation. May, our lawmakers work to do Your will, remembering that You have set apart the godly for yourself. Provide our Senators a refuge in You, enabling them to shout for joy, blessed by Your righteousness and favor. Continue to supply their needs, teaching them how to abound and abase.

Lord, keep us all from slipping, representing us one day before Your throne with great joy.

We pray in Your majestic 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 (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa is recognized.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF APOLLO 11

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, July 20 marks 50 years since Neil Armstrong took “one small step for man” and, for the first time in human history, walked on the Moon. The Apollo missions should be remembered for generations to come as a triumph for innovation, for hard work, and for the American spirit. As we commemorate the mission to the moon that captured the world 50 years ago, we should look with anticipation to the next “giant leap for mankind,” and thus work to

ensure that the United States remains at the forefront of innovation and technology.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, economic data continue to confirm what we have been hearing from American workers and job creators for 2 years now: This is a pro-worker, pro-family, pro-opportunity economic moment. Hardly a day goes by without new headlines highlighting the new prosperity in communities that the last administration’s policies overlooked and the red-hot market for American workers.

Since January 2017, Republican policies have focused on letting the American people control more of their own money and letting American businesses create jobs more easily.

So what are the results? On our watch, unemployment has fallen to near 50-year lows and stayed there. Underemployment has fallen too. Wages are growing. Month after month, we have had more job openings nationwide than Americans looking for work. Specifically, there are currently about 1.6 million more job openings than Americans looking for work, the widest margin ever recorded.

Now, these aren’t Washington accomplishments. They are the American people’s accomplishments, but public policy can certainly change the conditions. Government can either create the conditions that help lead to success or to stagnation.

For example, bad public policies under the Obama administration help to explain why the insufficient and unfair economic “recovery” left so many

places behind. High taxes, heavy regulation, and a hostile climate for business—these things all add up. They took a real toll in many places.

Take my home State of Kentucky, for example. Kentucky is proud of our diverse economy. We are proud of our great healthcare and aviation sectors. We are proud that we are a tourist destination. It turns out that Bourbon and horse races are a winning combination.

We also take huge pride in the kinds of industries that liberal policies tend to either forget about or actively work against. I am talking about manufacturing and agriculture and mining and coal-fired electricity—the things that keep the lights on in America’s heartland. We could not be prouder of the huge role these sectors play in our Commonwealth.

So it is not surprising that leftwing policies dreamt up in places like New York and San Francisco, for places like New York and San Francisco, were not too kind to Kentucky—growth that was too slow, jobs that were hard to come by. Some so-called experts said it was just the “new normal,” but we knew better. We knew Kentucky could get back on track if we could only get a fair shot and fewer hurdles from Washington. We needed the government to stop creating headwinds and maybe even create a few tailwinds. That is exactly what happened over the last 2½ years.

Since January 2017, Republicans in Congress have partnered with the Trump administration to get our Nation’s opportunity economy going and growing again—for everyone. We passed the first comprehensive overhaul of the Federal Tax Code in more than a generation. We cut regulations that had reduced liberty and stifled our competitiveness. We helped American workers and entrepreneurs hang up a big, bright neon sign saying “Open for Business.” And—no surprise here—working Americans have taken the ball and they have run with it.

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



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