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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 30, 2019, at 11:30 a.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JULY 29, 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.

Eternal God, the same yesterday, today, and forever, keep our lawmakers strong, patient, and true. Give them the wisdom to be just, reasonable, and courageous as they do Your will on Earth. Lord, teach them how to conduct themselves in contentious situations, as they seek to glorify Your name. Bless them in all they do.

May they remember Your promise to always be with them, inspiring them to live in harmony, peace, and love. Lord, give them the creativity needed to build a better nation and world.

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.

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

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

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

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, there is a bad practice in pharmaceutical pricing called spread pricing. Spread pricing has historically siphoned money from the State Medicaid Programs and given it to pharmacy benefit managers or what we call PBMs. Drug payments and Medicaid should focus on the beneficiary, not the PBMs.

The bipartisan prescription drug legislation I introduced this month with Senator WYDEN bans spread pricing. This will refocus the system on paying for costs associated with prescribing a drug instead of gaming the system to reap a profit at the expense of the taxpayers.

Medicaid funding should go to patients, not to the pockets of healthcare middlemen.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

MUELLER REPORT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I welcome all Members back to the Senate for a busy week, but first there is something I need to address.

Over the last several days, I was called unpatriotic, “un-American,” and essentially treasonous by a couple of leftwing pundits on the basis of bold-faced lies. I was accused of “aiding and abetting” the very man I have singled out as an adversary and opposed for

nearly 20 years: Vladimir Putin. This was less than 24 hours after the outraged industrial complex was disappointed yet again by Special Counsel Mueller.

Partisan Democrats and their media allies were crushed a few months ago, when Mueller’s report cleared the President of conspiring with Russia during the 2016 campaign. Now their frantic hyping of the special counsel’s congressional testimony has fallen flat once again, but the conspiracy theories and reckless accusations had to continue. Too many people had invested too much time in the hysterical echo chamber to simply wind it down and join the rest of us in the real world.

MEDIA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the outraged industrial complex needed a new target, and that is where I come in—MITCH MCCONNELL—the hawkish foreign policy conservative who has spent decades pushing back on Russia every way I can think of, was accused of what amounts to treason by multiple media outlets within a couple of hours.

These absurd smears weren’t thrown out there by anonymous Twitter accounts or fringe bloggers. Oh, no. This modern-day McCarthyism was pushed by big-time outlets. The smear that I am “a Russian asset” ran in the opinion pages of the Washington Post. The accusations that I am “un-American” was broadcast on MSNBC.

This is the state of leftwing politics in 2019. It is like an inflationary crisis but with outrage instead of dollars.

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



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