



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

No. 153

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 24, 2019, at 12 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 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.

Mighty God, hear our prayer. Because of Your mercies, give us the wisdom to strive to please You.

Continue to effectually work through our lawmakers to accomplish Your purposes. Lord, strengthen them to catapult the hurdles that threaten true freedom.

Grant that in all our perplexities, we will seek Your truth. Lord, may we hear the thunder of Your justice mingled with the showers of Your grace. Preserve our lawmakers even during turbulent seasons.

We pray in Your Holy 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 address the Senate for 1 minute as in morning business.

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

RENEWABLE FUELS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Last week, Siouxland Energy, an ethanol plant in Sioux Center, IA, announced that they are halting production due to the unfair small refinery exemptions.

This farmer-owned plant was annually buying 23.4 million bushels of corn from farmers in the area, and it also employed 42,000 people who, today, do not know when they will be able to go back to work. This kind of economic impact is a big deal in rural communities. If it spreads, it is going to create a lot of unemployment and closed ethanol plants in other places around the country. I have heard of production halts announced in other States as well.

In fact, the ethanol industry supports more than 365,000 total jobs, and the biodiesel industry supports more than 65,000 total jobs. We have made great progress through the Renewable Fuel Standard in diversifying our Nation's fuel supply while creating jobs and strengthening local economies.

We have to get this issue settled. I hope we can get an announcement from the EPA very soon about that so we can get these plants open and get these people back to work.

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. SCHUMER. 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 MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

UKRAINE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, over the weekend, details emerged about President Trump's conduct with Ukrainian President Zelensky. Specifically, the President's phone calls with the Ukrainian leader were subject of an official whistleblower complaint by a member of the intelligence community. The intelligence community's inspector general, a Trump appointee, has determined that this whistleblower's complaint is credible and a matter of urgent concern, whose subject matter "not only falls within the DNI's jurisdiction, but relates to one of the most significant and important of the DNI's responsibilities to the American people."

By law, a whistleblower complaint labeled in this way must be transmitted to Congress—not shall be transmitted to Congress, must be. The Trump administration has not allowed that to happen. So far, in the face of this dire warning and the Trump administration's effort to cover it up, the Republican-led Senate has remained silent and submissive, shying away from this institution's constitutional duty to conduct oversight.

That is an obligation we have. It is not a yes or no. That is our job. The Republicans are in the majority in the Senate. With that majority comes the power to call hearings, issue subpoenas, and decide what legislation

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S5617