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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.

Eternal God, give our lawmakers the power to live with purity. Remind them that for each test and temptation, You have provided a way of escape. When they stumble, help them to receive the forgiveness of Your abounding grace. May they permit Your spirit to control their minds and hearts, continually delivering them from evil.

Lord, we cannot live with integrity in our strength alone, so keep us united with You.

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 (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate as in morning business for 1 minute.

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

THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, we have been hearing from the other body a lot about how the Senate isn't taking up House bills. Now, that seems to be as though the Senate is supposed to somehow be a rubberstamp for the other body.

Well, we just celebrated Constitution Day last week, and the Constitution doesn't provide for the Senate to auto-

matically take up bills from the other body. Maybe it is time for a reminder about how the Founding Fathers intended the Senate to work, so I am going to give a short quote by James Madison in the Federalist Papers, No. 62, entitled "The Senate":

The necessity of a senate is not less indicated by the propensity of all single and numerous assemblies, to yield to the impulse of sudden and violent passions, and to be seduced by factious leaders into intemperate and pernicious resolutions.

I am not saying that the House of Representatives passes intemperate and pernicious resolutions, but at least the Founding Fathers thought that could happen, and they had the Senate to be a check on the House of Representatives, just as the House of Representatives can be a check on anything that we do.

There are now over 80 bills that have passed both Houses, but there are some that can't pass the Senate, and there are probably some the Senate feels shouldn't even be brought up. The difference between the House and Senate—and some contemplation by the Senate to be very cautious—is how the Constitution meant the Senate was supposed to work. I hope leaders of the House of Representatives will be reminded of that from time to time. That is my purpose today.

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. Madam 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.

HONORING CHRIS HULSEY

Mr. McCONNELL. First, this morning, I join the Kentucky families and first responders in Meade County in mourning the loss of volunteer sheriff's deputy Chris Hulsey, who was killed in the line of duty over the weekend. According to reports, on Saturday evening, Deputy Hulsey was attacked while investigating a suspect and pronounced dead at the hospital hours later.

Deputy Hulsey proudly answered the call of public service with a decades-long career that also included time as a firefighter and a paramedic. His service left his community safer, and his sacrifice left it in grief. I stand with them in mourning his loss and honoring his service. The community will hold a candlelight vigil tonight to honor this Kentucky hero. The prayers of the Senate will be with them.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on an entirely different matter, the Senate continues making headway in the personnel business.

It is still too bad that our Democratic colleagues continue to insist on cloture votes, floor time, and rollcall votes for the kinds of uncontroversial nominees who have ordinarily traveled by voice vote for past administrations of both parties. Yet the Senate hasn't been deterred by this novel campaign of systematic obstruction from our Democratic friends. We will keep right on getting these talented public servants on the job, where they belong.

Later today, we will confirm a Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury. Then we will confirm an ambassador, a solicitor of a Cabinet department, and a deputy commissioner of Social Security. They aren't the only nominees we will confirm this week. Before our work is finished, we will also have confirmed our next Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and, pending the committee action of our colleagues, our

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



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