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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, thank You for Your sanctifying truth. Use our lawmakers to live Your truth for the glory of Your Name. May Your truth keep them from the things that can pollute their lives and dishonor You.

Lord, forgive us when we are reluctant to submit to You with our bodies, minds, and spirits. Make us all vessels of honor prepared for every good work.

We pray in Your strong 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. CRAMER). 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.

UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. GRASSLEY. We are getting toward the end of the year, and one of the issues I would like to get done—which has to go through the House of Representatives first—is the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement. In regard to that agreement's helping agriculture, I want to start by laying out the fact that there is a lot of anxiety in agricultural America.

Even though the harvest is about to start across Iowa, we had a really dif-

ficult, tough spring getting the crops in. There is a crop to be harvested, however, and farmers will now be doing that job. They hope they can cover their costs. And while they are doing that, they are thinking about putting in next year's crop.

Passing the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement would inject more certainty into the plans that the farmers have about this year's harvest and the plans they have for next year's crop. Passage of that would signal to the world that we here in the Congress are very serious about passing new, modern trade arrangements.

Yet we are running out of calendar days in 2019. Congress must step up and deliver for our hard-working farmers, as well as workers in America and small business in America and, in a sense, by getting this agreement passed, helping all of America. The time for the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement is now.

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. 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 MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday evening, Speaker PELOSI announced that the House of Representatives will begin what she called "an official impeachment inquiry." But, really, we know that House Democrats have been indulging their impeach-

ment obsession for nearly 3 years now—a never-ending impeachment parade in search of a rationale.

The very day President Trump was inaugurated, the Washington Post ran a news story with this headline: "The campaign to impeach President Trump has begun." That was the day of his inauguration. Later that year, there were articles of impeachment introduced over the President's language. So clearly, this has been an ongoing project for House Democrats since practically the moment that Secretary Clinton lost the election.

For months, Democrats insisted that Special Counsel Mueller's investigation or the work of the Senate Intelligence Committee would prove their theories about a conspiracy between the Trump campaign and Russia. It didn't happen. The facts disappointed them, but the impeachment parade kept marching along.

Yesterday, even though a bipartisan committee investigation into the new whistleblower allegations is underway—and just hours after the President offered to publicize the details of his phone call with the President of Ukraine—the dam finally broke. Speaker PELOSI couldn't hold back the far left any longer. Before any of us even had the facts in hand, she caved to the left and announced an impeachment inquiry.

If this all sounds familiar, that is because at the time—literally, 1 week ago—the same Democrats were shouting about impeaching Justice Kavanaugh. That rush to judgment was based on a sketchy story in a major newspaper that promptly had to publish an enormous correction. But 1 week later, here they go again, threatening impeachment without the facts in hand.

Senate Republicans support the established proper procedures for considering this whistleblower report. In the meantime, while our friends across the Capitol rush to judgment and dive

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



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