



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2019

No. 191

## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at 2 p.m.

## Senate

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 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 who transforms common days into transfiguring and redemptive moments, continue to guide our lawmakers with Your might.

Lord, make our Senators brave enough for these momentous times as they seek to live worthy of Your great Name. May they not trust in their wisdom or power but rely on You to keep them secure. Guide them around life's pitfalls. Bring them through the darkness to a haven.

Lord, cleanse the fountains of their hearts from that which defiles so that they may be fit vessels to be used for Your glory. Let Your peace be within them as Your Spirit inspires them to glorify 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.

### UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. GRASSLEY. I have come to the floor many times to speak with my colleagues about the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement. I recently spoke with my colleagues in the House of Representatives and also officials within the administration about the same subject. By all accounts, the deal is close on the United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement.

I urge House Democrats to act quickly and be reasonable so we can finally deliver certainty on this issue to the American people. It has now been more than a year since the leaders of Canada, Mexico, and the United States signed the agreement, so Americans have waited a year for what can happen now. This modernized trade agreement will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs and help Americans grow wages for our workers.

The end of this year's legislative session is rapidly approaching, as we all know. If a deal cannot be reached by the end of this week, I do not see how the USMCA can be ratified in the year we are in. As it is, the window of opportunity for 2019 is extremely tight. Now is the time for the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives to finally act so we can act in the Senate.

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. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Dan R. Brouillette, of Texas, to be Secretary of Energy.

### SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I had a wonderful Thanksgiving break, and I trust the Presiding Officer did, too. I hope all enjoyed time with their families and friends last week.

It was my pleasure to be back home in Texas and spend time with some incredible people who and some organizations that are doing a lot of good in their communities.

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S6781