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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, help us to remember Your mighty acts. You are kind and merciful, better to us than we deserve. You feed the sparrows and cause the Sun to rise. You forgive our sins and provide us with strength for every challenge.

Lord, use our lawmakers today for Your glory. May they be courteous and kind as they seek to do what is best for this land we love. Remind them that they represent the hopes and dreams of many people.

Thank You, Lord, for the wonderful things that You continue to do for us all.

We pray in Your loving 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam 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.

TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, this week marks the second anniversary

of the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act—December 2017—when the biggest tax cut in the history of the country was passed by the Congress. It has been very successful.

The reason I come to honor this second anniversary is because polls show that people don't realize the benefits of the tax cuts. Some of them even wonder: Did we get a tax cut?

I have some appreciation for that because I spent 10 years on an assembly line in Cedar Falls, IA, and probably if I got a 50-cent cut every week, I wouldn't know until the end of the year that that added up to \$250 more in my pocket. So under the circumstances of the working men and women of America, it might be difficult to know that.

Studies show a great benefit to the middle-class families from this tax cut. Thanks to these historic tax cuts and reforms, Americans do in fact have more money in their paychecks and their pocketbooks. Individuals and families have more to spend or, if they want, to save it, and maybe a lot of people save for retirement.

Small businesses and entrepreneurs benefit from the tax cut. They have more to invest in their employees and in their business operations, and they probably hire more Americans.

As a result, we have experienced the longest U.S. economic expansion in history, higher wages, and historically low unemployment—the lowest since 1969.

I am proud to say on this 2-year anniversary of the tax reform that it has been a resounding success.

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.

IMPEACHMENT

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, all signs seem to suggest that later this week, the House Democrats are finally going to do what many of them have been foreshadowing for 3 years now and impeach President Trump. It appears that the most rushed, least thorough, and most unfair impeachment inquiry in modern history is about to wind down after just 12 weeks and that its slapdash work product will be dumped on us over here in the Senate.

I will have much more to say to our colleagues and to the American people if and when the House does move ahead. As we speak today, House Democrats still have the opportunity to do the right thing for the country and avoid setting this toxic new precedent. The House can turn back from a cliff and not deploy this constitutional remedy of last resort to deliver a predetermined partisan outcome. This morning, I just want to speak to one very specific part of this.

Over the weekend, the Democratic leader decided to short-circuit the customary and collegial process for laying the basic groundwork in advance of a potential impeachment trial. The preferable path would have been an in-person conversation, which nonetheless I still hope to pursue. Instead, he chose to begin by writing me an 11-paragraph letter on Sunday evening, delivering it by way of the news media, and beginning a cable television campaign a few hours later.

The Democratic leader's letter is an interesting document from the very beginning. For example, in the second of his 11 paragraphs, our colleague literally misquotes the Constitution. That error actually aligns with our colleague's apparent confusion about some of the deeper questions. I will come back to that in a moment.

At first, our colleague's letter appears to request that a potential impeachment trial adopt similar procedures to the Clinton impeachment trial

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



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