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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 Father, who extends daily to our lawmakers' compassionate love, we praise Your Holy Name. In a fragile world where we often find ourselves waiting to exhale, You remain our shelter for every storm.

Lord, relieve the shadows of gloom as we face a world endangered by selfishness and sin. Bring our Senators from the fatigue of despair to the buoyancy of hope. Make their lives unflickering lights that scatter the darkness in our Nation and world. Give them an unflinching certainty that You are sovereign.

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 for 1 minute as in morning business.

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

IRAN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, over the past year, the Iranian regime has been increasingly aggressive, attacking oil tankers in the Persian Gulf, shooting down a U.S. drone, seizing a British tanker, attacking a Saudi oil facility, attacking U.S. military bases

in Iraq, and storming the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad.

The U.S. response to Iran's increasing provocations had been too measured, to the point that we risked Iran's leaders mistaking restraint on the part of America for weakness and encouraging further escalation.

Another attack that risked many American lives was in the works when President Trump ordered U.S. forces to take out the terrorist mastermind of the Iranian regime.

Now, think about it. Sometimes you have to stand up to a bully to get him to back off or else we might be inviting further aggression.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

IMPEACHMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, first, this morning I want to associate myself with a statement made yesterday by one of our distinguished colleagues about the House Democrats treating impeachment like a political toy. Here is what the Senator said: "If it's serious and urgent, send them over. If it isn't, don't." That was our Democratic colleague, the senior Senator from California, the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee. She wasn't alone.

"It's time to get on with it." That is our Democratic colleague the junior Senator from Delaware.

"At some point, it's appropriate to send them and pass the baton to Senators." That is our Democratic colleague, the senior Senator from Connecticut.

"I think the time has past. She should send the articles." That is our Democratic colleague the junior Senator from Connecticut.

Now, this is a challenging time to create bipartisan agreement in the Senate on any subject, but the Speaker of the House has managed to do the impossible. She has created this growing bipartisan unity here in the Senate in opposition to her own reckless behavior.

The Senators may not agree on much, but it appears most of us still recognize the threat to our institution when we see one. Article I, section 3, says: "The Senate shall have the sole power to try all impeachments"—period.

The House can begin the process, and Speaker PELOSI's majority has certainly done that, but the Senate alone can resolve it. Yet, for weeks now, the House majority has blocked the Senate from fulfilling our constitutional duty. In a precedent-breaking display of partisanship, the Speaker has refused to let her own allegations proceed normally to trial unless she gets to hand-design various elements of our Senate process. In other words, the House Democrats already spent 12 weeks undermining the institution of the Presidency with a historically unfair and subjective impeachment, and now, for a sequel, they have come after the institution of the Senate as well. That is where we are.

The dwindling number of our Senate Democratic colleagues who remain complicit in this must realize what they are doing. Should future House majorities feel empowered to waste our time with junior varsity political hostage situations? Should future Speakers be permitted to conjure up this sword of Damocles at will and leave it hanging over the Senate unless we do what they say? Of course not.

This week, a majority of the Senate stepped forward to make it perfectly clear that this conversation is over. A majority of this body has said definitively that we are not ceding our constitutional authority to the partisan designs of the Speaker. We will not let

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



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