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Senate

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, our refuge and strength, You reminded us in Romans 8:26 that we do not even know how we should pray or for what we should pray. You then promised that if we request it, Your Holy Spirit will pray for us with groaning that cannot be expressed in words. We claim that promise that Your Spirit will pray for us.

Lord, guide our Senators through the power of this celestial intercession. Inspire our lawmakers to earnestly seek to fulfill Your purposes. Enable them to find unity with each other because of their experiential relationship with Your intervening love.

We pray in Your marvelous 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 (Mr. HAWLEY). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

ADVANCED GEOTHERMAL INNOVATION LEADERSHIP ACT OF 2019—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2657, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to S. 2657, a bill to support innovation in advanced geothermal research and development, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute as in morning business.

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

ANTI-DAIRY ACTIVISM

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, our U.S. dairy farmers have had a tough decade. Margins are thinner than ever, and new milk substitutes can be found in every grocery store. While dairy farmers scored a major victory in the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement with increased market access to Canada, there is a scary new trend that is very disturbing.

Hollywood jokers have taken a stand against raising cows with the so-called hashtag “mootoo” movement. This is utterly irresponsible. U.S. dairies produce the highest quality milk and cheese in the world under the highest standards of care. Drink and eat dairy products. It is good for you—especially ice cream. Help our dairy farmers.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, over the weekend, cases of the coronavirus have been confirmed in New York, Rhode Island, and Florida. Officials in Washington State have also reported

that now six Americans have died from the coronavirus—the first fatalities in the United States.

At this critical moment, we need an administration that acts with persistent and unrelenting transparency and decisiveness, and that leans on the expertise of our scientists and doctors. But this administration, unfortunately, has spent years hollowing out the domestic and global health security teams in the executive branch. It has proposed cutting funding from the infectious disease rapid response fund, the emerging infectious disease account, and public health preparedness and response programs. Undoubtedly, the Trump administration would have been better prepared to respond to the coronavirus if the President had prioritized these programs rather than urged them to be cut.

The administration’s early response efforts have not instilled much confidence either. Testing kits were not promptly sent to the hospitals and medical labs around the country, political personnel have overruled the recommendations of the CDC, and the administration was slow to appoint any single official with public health expertise to coordinate our government’s response.

Even now, President Trump seems to be spending more of his time blaming the media and blaming the Democrats than being constructive. In fact, he blames everyone not named Donald Trump. The President is downplaying—he is downplaying—the threat of the coronavirus to a dangerous degree, and his Chief of Staff, amazingly, said to Americans: “Turn off your televisions.”

We know the history of how these viruses spread and work. When you deny them, when you don’t let people know what is happening and what to do about it, things get worse. Yet the President, being as self-centered as he is, only cares about himself and his image. As usual, instead of solving the

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



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