



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 166

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2020

No. 44

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.

God of us all, thank You for this moment that unites us in the fellowship of prayer. Make us conscious of Your presence and unite us in our efforts to do Your will on Earth.

Lord, inspire the hearts and minds of our lawmakers to strengthen the bonds between us, as they seek to live lives of integrity. May no partisanship mar the unity of spirit they must have to make America stronger, wiser, and better. Deliver them from every unworthy motive, as they labor to honor You. Lord, lift their burdens, lessen their fears, and give them Your peace.

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 speak in morning business for 1 minute.

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

JUDICIARY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, an independent judiciary is one of the cornerstones of our democracy. Judges serve lifetime appointments, free from political pressure so they can render impartial judgment without fear of retribution.

Yesterday, unfortunately, our country took a step in the wrong direction

with the Democratic leader's comments at a microphone in front of the Supreme Court.

The Democratic leader harangued and warned Justices Gorsuch and Kavanaugh by name. He said they would "pay the price" and "won't know what hit you if you go forward with these awful decisions."

At best, it was an injection of partisan politics into a process that should be immune to these Justices. At worst, it was a threat, targeting two sitting members of the Supreme Court. Either way, I encourage my colleague, the Democratic leader, to apologize to those Supreme Court Justices and to do it here on the floor.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

SUPREME COURT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I planned to spend my remarks today discussing our bipartisan, bicameral agreement to fund the fight against the new coronavirus. I was looking forward to congratulating all my colleagues and discussing all the ways this funding will help our public health experts, frontline healthcare professionals, and State and local officials combat the spread of this virus and mitigate its effects. It is a serious agreement to meet a serious challenge, and today we will send it to President Trump's desk.

So today will be an important day for the country, and it was going to be a proud day for the Senate, but instead the Nation's eyes are on this body for an entirely different reason.

A few weeks ago, I spoke on this floor about a dangerous trend that threatens our self-governance. I explained how some in the Democratic Party appear more interested in attacking the insti-

tutions of our government than in working within them, how Democrats increasingly respond to political disappointments with extreme claims that our system of government itself must be broken. The failure can't be their own. It can't be that the left needs better arguments or ideas. No, the fault must lie with the Constitution itself.

Democrats have tried to cloak their anger at President Trump in rhetoric about protecting norms and institutions, but, in reality, it is their own side of the aisle where anti-institutionalism is rampant. Rampant. We can talk about attacks on the office of the Presidency, on the Electoral College, on the First Amendment, on the Senate itself, but most striking of all has been the shameless efforts to bully our Nation's independent judiciary, and yesterday those efforts took a dangerous and disturbing turn.

By now many already know what the Democratic leader shouted outside the Supreme Court yesterday morning. I am sorry to have to read it into the RECORD. First, he prompted a crowd of leftwing activists to boo two of the Associate Justices—as though Supreme Court Justices were professional athletes and Senator SCHUMER were jeering from the stands. Then the senior Senator from New York said this:

I want to tell you, Gorsuch! I want to tell you, Kavanaugh! You have released the whirlwind, and you will pay the price. You won't know what hit you if you go forward with these awful decisions.

I am not sure where to start.

There is nothing to call this except a threat, and there is absolutely no question to whom—to whom it was directed.

Contrary to what the Democratic leader has since tried to claim, he very, very clearly was not addressing Republican lawmakers or anyone else. He literally directed the statement to the Justices by name. He said: "[I]f you go forward with these awful decisions,"

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



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