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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 Senator from South Carolina, the Honorable TIM SCOTT, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Dear Heavenly Father, teach us reverential awe. Give us the respect for You and Your purposes that You are due. Bless our leaders. Keep them from evil as You lead them to make a positive impact on our Nation and world.

Lord, rescue them from the inevitable troubles of life, protecting them from harm. As they seek to serve You, fill them with a faith that will not shrink, though oppressed by many foes. May they continually rejoice because of Your promise that no weapon formed against them shall prosper.

We pray in 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 (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate for 1 minute in morning business.

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

IOWA HISTORY MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, as all Iowans know, I love history. That brings me to the floor to honor March as Iowa History Month.

Here are some facts about Iowa. Since becoming a State in 1846, Iowa has raised one President—that is Presi-

dent Hoover—and four Nobel laureates, and is home to over 2,000 locations on the National Register of Historic Places.

Our heritage is preserved by Iowans who do their good work through maintaining Iowa's museums and historic sites. I encourage all of my fellow Iowans to help pass on our history to the next generation by taking advantage of the many programs hosted this month by visiting www.iowaculture.gov.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday evening, the President, the Vice President, and their task force offered an extensive public briefing on ongoing efforts to combat this new virus, which has spread from China throughout the world.

As the Director of the CDC explained, officials are now tracking more than 500 cases across our country. Nationwide, the risk to any individual American remains low, but as the Vice President and the experts reminded us, the time is now for all Americans to engage in basic commonsense measures and for Americans at heightened risk to take additional precautions. Detailed recommendations for individuals, families, and employers are available online at coronavirus.gov.

President Trump also announced that in parallel with the public health response, his administration is considering ways to mitigate the impact of the virus on our economy. Senate Republicans look forward to discussing this with Secretary Mnuchin and the President's team so we can all consider the best ways to move forward for the American people. As our government continues to prepare and protect our Nation, I would urge all of my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle in both Chambers, to put reflexive partisanship aside and stay focused on our common work to promote the common good. This virus does not care—does not care—about partisan divisions.

This disease poses a challenge, no question, but our Nation is strong, we are well equipped, and we have overcome far, far greater challenges before. As the Vice President put it yesterday, "We're all in this together."

S. 2657

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on another matter, this week, we have the opportunity to pass major legislation to strengthen our domestic energy. Chairman MURKOWSKI, Senator MANCHIN, and the Energy and Natural Resources Committee have assembled a strong, bipartisan bill. I look forward to passing it.

I was disappointed yesterday when the Senate failed to advance the legislation and clear a path toward completing the bill. The committee's product includes about 50 different bills and contributions from nearly three-fourths of the Members of this body, and contrary to the Democratic leader's assertions on the floor, I am certainly not blocking any bipartisan amendment. I have stated right here on the floor that I hope and anticipate that we will vote on amendments this week.

Don't be fooled by the finger-pointing. I am not standing in the way of bipartisan amendments. What is really

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



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