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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, as our Nation faces this national state of emergency, we pause to thank You with our whole hearts for the gift of this day. In spite of challenges that often seem insurmountable, You remain our hope for the years to come. As our Senators strive to meet the challenge of the coronavirus, validate their efforts with Your Divine blessings.

You are the righteous judge who knows even the motives of our hearts. May Your providential purposes be fulfilled in our Nation and world. Touch this land we love with Your healing hands.

We pray in Your powerful 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 (Mr. HAWLEY). The Senator from Iowa.

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

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

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, on Friday, President Trump declared a national emergency concerning the novel coronavirus disease outbreak. This proclamation frees up additional resources to further efforts to contain and combat the virus.

Over the weekend, my Governor of Iowa, Kim Reynolds, confirmed Iowa's first case of community-spread COVID-19, which was in Dallas County, Iowa.

It is very important to continue to take commonsense precautions. Stay home if you are sick, wash your hands, avoid large gatherings, and heed the advice of health officials. Extra caution now will save lives later.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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. Mr. President, the new coronavirus has spread from China throughout the world, and it is challenging our Nation in new ways. Across our country, daily routines are being disrupted, families are grappling with school closings and changes to childcare, major American companies and institutions are literally modifying how they do business, and a growing number of Main Street small businesses face the possibility of significant disruptions as more and more communities begin to "hunker down," as Dr. Fauci put it, on the advice of public health experts and local leaders.

As an aside, I have noticed that a lot of the discussion in the media has focused on individuals who may be temporarily transitioning from office work to working from home. So I want to especially acknowledge the many other

hard-working Americans for whom telework is not an option. Now, more than ever, we are reminded who really keeps this country running: the hard-working men and women who grow things, who make things, who drive trucks and move goods across the country, who mine coal or otherwise produce domestic energy and, literally, power our communities, who run the stores and shops we rely on, who serve our communities as police and first responders, and, of course, especially the dedicated frontline healthcare professionals, who work tirelessly to heal and protect all the rest of us.

To all Americans—but, most especially, to those hard-working people whose efforts are going to get our country through this challenge—I have one message: The Senate stands with you. We stand with American workers and families, we stand with American businesses, and we stand with the public health experts and the heroic frontline medical professionals whom our Nation seems poised to lean on as heavily as we have at any point in recent memory.

The Senate is committed to meeting these uncertain times with bold and bipartisan solutions. That is what we did a little more than a week ago, when the Senate passed billions of dollars in emergency funding for health and small businesses with an overwhelming bipartisan vote and put it on the President's desk. That is what we are going to keep doing this week, particularly if the House of Representatives can actually complete its work and transmit a finished product of its relief over to us. And it is what we are going to keep doing in the days and weeks ahead.

With respect to the House-passed legislation, I understand the House chose to proceed with their planned 1-week recess, despite not having finished processing their bill. As of this afternoon, we are still waiting for the House to reach a decision on possible technical corrections and to submit a final

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



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