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Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 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 God, the fountain of wisdom, we cherish Your presence and honor Your Name.

Give our lawmakers the wisdom to live with honor, as they remember their accountability to history and You. Lord, remind them that You are glorified when they walk on the path of integrity, striving to please You in all they say and do. May their lives bring light to darkness, unity to division, and order to chaos. Lord, grant that they will become living letters read by those who desire to believe that You continue to rule in our world.

We pray in Your sovereign 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 (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

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.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. GRASSLEY. COVID-19, as we all know, has thrown a wrench into Amer-

ica's corners of commerce and manufacturing, in addition to threatening lives and the loss of lives. The unprecedented effort to stop the spread has shut down life as we know it, closing schools, movie theaters, gyms, salons, and restaurants in a hysterical approach to it.

I always say we have had pandemics before, but never have we shut down the government, shut down Congress the way we have. Our moves have disrupted our food supply chain and pulled the rug out from underneath our economy. Yet, across my home State, Iowa businesses and industries stepped up to the plate. Ethanol plants, local distilleries, and others teamed up to produce hand sanitizers for hospitals, nursing homes, and local law enforcement. Others retooled their factories and redirected their workforce to sew masks and produce face shields and other supplies to replenish personal protective equipment for our frontline workers. Across Iowa, businesses have shown there is nothing halfway about the Iowa Way.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, our healthcare sector continues to battle the coronavirus at every level. Doctors, nurses, hospital workers, researchers, and public health leaders are working constantly to protect Americans and fight this invader.

Unfortunately, the last 2 months' stoppage of much of our national life was never going to permanently extinguish the virus. That task will be ongoing. The stated purpose of this effort was to prevent a rapid spike that could have completely overwhelmed the med-

ical capacities of many areas. The patriotic sacrifices of the American people have worked. We have bought our healthcare system that breathing room we needed.

As we cautiously move forward, major precautions will remain in place. Some routines will not go back to normal for a long time. But as a nation, we will need to regroup and find a more sustainable middle ground between total lockdown and total normalcy. Let me say that again. We need to find a middle ground between total lockdown and total normalcy.

While we keep battling the virus through testing, tracing, isolation, treatment, and hopefully soon, a vaccine, we need to smartly and safely begin to reopen our country. If Americans want to go back to work and back to school in the fall, we will need to reopen the country. No doubt, there will be many discussions here in Congress about more ways we can help make that happen.

Already, we are hearing that House Democrats are cobbling together another big laundry list of pet priorities. Even the media is describing it as a partisan wish list with no chance of becoming law. That is exactly the wrong approach. It is the wrong approach when a senior Democrat calls this pandemic "a tremendous opportunity to restructure things to fit our vision." It is the wrong approach when former Vice President Biden calls this tragedy an "incredible opportunity . . . to fundamentally transform the country."

The American people don't need a far-left transformation. They just need a path back to the historically prosperous and optimistic moment that they had built for themselves until about 12 weeks ago. The American people don't need a far-left transformation. They just need a path back to the historically prosperous and optimistic moment they had built for themselves until about 12 weeks ago.

American workers don't need Washington to inflict some far-left, extreme

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



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