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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 Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of our destiny, You have watched over us from generation to generation. May our lawmakers trust Your faithfulness during this challenging season of our Nation's history. Lord, inspire them to recall how You have sustained this land we love in prosperity and adversity, in peace and in war. Give our Senators the wisdom to believe that they can trust Your constancy and greatness as they cling to Your promise to never leave or forsake them. Believing in Your power, help us all to face fresh challenges with total confidence in You.

And, Lord, we pray for the health and safety of all as communities begin the process of reopening businesses.

We pray in Your mighty 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 for 3 minutes as in morning business.

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

CHINA AND THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I am deeply concerned about reports that China began hoarding medical

supplies in early January while working to prevent the World Health Organization from sounding the alarm about the virus pandemic.

By analyzing international trade data, the Department of Homeland Security assessed that the Chinese Government intentionally concealed the severity of COVID-19 from the world in early January in order to stockpile medical supplies. Furthermore, the Chinese Communist Party Government tried to hide its actions by denying there were any export restrictions. They even tried to obscure and delay its trade data so it wouldn't get caught.

These acts are outrageous.

Even worse, the CIA and foreign intelligence agencies have found evidence that China threatened the World Health Organization to stop cooperating on efforts to combat COVID-19 if the organization declared a global health emergency early on. So it was declared, and, hence, there was valuable time lost in fighting the virus.

This is simply unacceptable behavior. The Chinese Communist Party ought to be held accountable for the countless lives that have been lost around the globe due to its nontransparent, aggressive, inhumane behavior.

The World Health Organization is composed of many honorable and dedicated medical professionals who believe in the WHO's mission. If any of them were privy to what was going on by the Chinese Communist Party, he ought to step forward and shine light on any misdeeds by the organization's leadership.

Whistleblowers are necessary to prevent corruption within any institution, which is why I have a longstanding reputation of protecting whistleblowers. The world deserves to know what the World Health Organization's leaders knew and when they knew it. The evidence is quickly becoming crystal clear—that China is responsible for tremendous suffering worldwide through

its lies and active coverup. Telling the truth about the Chinese Communist Party does not, as some have suggested, have any bearing on how we analyze our domestic response.

We should learn from democratic countries that have been successful in containing outbreaks, like Taiwan and South Korea. However, in going forward, everyone around the world should have his eyes open about the true nature of the Chinese regime.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, the coronavirus pandemic continues to challenge our Nation, and the Senate is here working for the American people.

Our committees have called in experts like Dr. Fauci and leaders like Chairman Powell to discuss the CARES Act and the path toward reopening. We are tracking the effects of the largest rescue package ever and are considering next steps, like strong legal protections so that doctors, small businesses, schoolteachers, and universities do not face a second epidemic of frivolous lawsuits.

The Senate is also staying on top of other threats that predated COVID-19—the meddling of Putin's Russia, the brutal Chinese Communist Party, rogue states like Iran and North Korea, foreign terrorists such as ISIS.

Two weeks ago, we overwhelmingly confirmed an impressive leader for the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, whom Acting DNI Grenell has announced will play a central role in briefing candidates and campaigns on foreign threats against our elections.

Today, our colleagues on the Intelligence Committee, now led by Acting

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



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