



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 166

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020

No. 96

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, May 22, 2020, at 11 a.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020

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.

Lord of our lives, make these moments of prayer more than mere words, but may this reverent pause fill our hearts with gratitude and love for You. May our lawmakers appreciate the fact that through prayer, they have the privilege of talking to You, the superintendent of the universe.

Lord, inspire them to use this intercessory opportunity to seek Your wisdom and guidance, knowing that You are eager to help them. Give us all the wisdom to remember that You continue to be our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.

And Lord, as we approach Memorial Day, thank You for the men and women who gave their lives for this Nation while serving in the U.S. military. We are grateful also for the great sacrifices made by their loved ones.

We pray in Your merciful 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 1 minute in morning business.

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

NIGERIA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, we all ought to be very concerned, as I am, about the ongoing religious persecution happening in Nigeria. It may be happening in a lot of countries, but I just want to mention Nigeria today.

In the last 6 months, there have been multiple attacks. This includes the murder of 11 Christians by extremists identified as part of ISIS, and—can you believe it—the beheading of a pastor by Boko Haram militants. West Africa released a barbaric video of a child of about 10 years old executing a Christian.

The Nigerian authorities need to stop this persecution right now, and our own government, the U.S. Government, needs to do what it can to support that effort. For sure, those responsible must be held accountable for their actions.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. McCONNELL. All month, the Senate has been on the job attending to the needs of our country. We legis-

lated, we confirmed nominees, we held major hearings, and conducted oversight on the historic response to COVID-19.

Yesterday, we learned that our Senate action will continue to contrast with our absentee neighbors across the Rotunda. While essential workers across the country continue to clock in, the Democratic House of Representatives has essentially put itself on paid leave for months. Since the early days of this crisis, the self-described “People’s House” has been suspiciously empty of people. I understand they have convened for legislative session a grand total of 2 days in the last 8 weeks. At this point, I am wondering if we should send Senators over there to collect their newspaper and water the plants.

It is not just their physical absence; it is House Democrats absent from any serious discussions at all. About the only product to emerge from their lengthy sabbatical has been a 1,800-page, \$3 trillion messaging bill that couldn’t even unite their own conference.

Yesterday, the Speaker announced this arrangement will continue for another 45 days at least, but there is a new wrinkle. House Democrats jammed through a precedent-breaking remote voting scheme that will let 1 Member cast 10 additional votes—1 Member cast 10 additional votes. Actually, 1 person, 11 votes. Remember, these are the people who want to remake every State’s election laws.

There are several problems with this. One of them happens to be article I, section 5 of the U.S. Constitution,

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



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