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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 4, 2020, at 10 a.m.

Senate

TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 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 God, have mercy upon our Nation, for the winds of suffering buffet our land. We hear the cries of the voiceless and the anguish of the unheard. We see the criminal actions of those who threaten freedom.

Lord, snatch this Nation, conceived in liberty, from the precipice of its own destruction. Extricate us from traps we have set for ourselves. Remind us that You are a God of justice from whom we borrow our heartbeats.

Arise, mighty God, and make those who defy Your purposes tremble with reverential awe. Hear the prayers of our Senators, and give them wisdom, courage, and integrity for these challenging times.

We pray in Your strong 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, 1 minute for morning business, please.

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

PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICING REDUCTION ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, the virus pandemic is disrupting our daily lives in unimaginable ways. The National Institutes of Health is working with a private sector biotech company and has already begun early-stage human trials for a potential vaccine, so there is hope on the horizon. However, the soaring prices of prescription drugs are making lifesaving treatments and cures simply unaffordable for many Americans.

This pandemic made clear two issues: Americans urgently want a cure, and when lifesaving therapies and cures come to the market, Americans must be able to afford them when their providers prescribe them.

My bipartisan Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act is needed now more than ever.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

PROTESTS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, last night, the streets of major American cities were again the scene of looting and violent rioting that serves no purpose except to hurt innocent people and undermine peaceful demonstrations.

Every one of us has an obligation to distinguish peaceful protests over the

killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery from the violent riots that continue to see innocent people hurt, businesses and neighborhoods destroyed, and law enforcement officers assaulted. The former is a cherished constitutional right that every single citizen should support, and the latter is an unacceptable scourge that State and local leaders should have ended days ago. So I want to thank Federal, State, and local leaders who are taking seriously their obligation to restore peace, protect the innocent, and stop this senseless violence.

In some places, like my home State of Kentucky and here in Washington, last night was comparatively more calm and safe. But in too many other places, like New York City, it appeared to be open season for lawlessness, looting, and attacking law enforcement for yet another night. And for what? For what? Rioting for the thrill of it? For the chance to steal some expensive items? So people can say they were on social media?

This selfish violence takes us further away from any national healing or forward progress. It does not bring positive change any closer; it simply pushes it further away.

These rioters need to listen to what George Floyd's brother Terrence said in Minneapolis just yesterday. Here is what George Floyd's brother said:

I understand [you all] are upset. I doubt [you're] half as upset as I am. So if I'm not over here blowing up stuff, if I'm not over here messing up my community, then what are [you all] doing?

George Floyd's brother.

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



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