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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.

O Lord, as our lips are open in prayer, so may our hearts open to receive Your Holy Spirit. Help us to bow to Your will and live lives devoted to Your providential leading.

Lord, we thank You for your providence that brought us the gift of Representative JOHN LEWIS. We are grateful he was a drum major for justice, truth, and righteousness. May his exemplary life and legacy remind us of the transformative impact one dedicated person can make on our Nation and world.

Today, bless our Senators in their work. Let faith, hope, and love abound in their lives. May they seek to heal the hurt in our world and to be forces for harmony and goodness.

We pray in Your Holy 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 for 1 minute in morning business.

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

IOWA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, representative government is a two-way street. To hold up my part of that commitment, I am on my 40th year of hold-

ing at least one Q&A in every county every year. Over the past 2 weeks, I had Q&As in 29 counties. Iowans raised their concerns about the virus, unemployment insurance, the rising cost of prescription drugs, China, and access to rural broadband.

Iowans applauded Congress's swift action on programs like the Paycheck Protection Program and getting much needed resources to our rural healthcare workers.

As always, I will continue to bring Iowans' voices to the policymaking tables, and I look forward to finishing my annual 99 county meetings later this year.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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.

REMEMBERING JOHN LEWIS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on Friday, the Nation lost a monumental figure, someone who made huge personal sacrifices to help our Nation move past the sin of racism and align more with the principles of our founding.

JOHN LEWIS had secured his place among the giants of American history before his career in Congress had even begun. From a sharecropper's farm with no electricity or running water, JOHN LEWIS rose to share the stage with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as a founding leader of the mid-century

civil rights movement. His unwavering example of nonviolent resistance became a powerful rallying cry, swelling the ranks of marches and sit-ins and commanding the attention of the Nation.

As a young student, JOHN demonstrated wisdom beyond his years and unimaginable patience and dignity in the face of harassment and brutal assaults from the champions of segregation. From boycotts and sit-ins to Bloody Sunday in Selma, he suffered, and suffered, and suffered. But he kept working. He was unshaken in the belief that our Nation could do better, and he was willing to pay for that progress with his own blood.

The cause of justice called JOHN LEWIS to the vanguard—from organizing the lunch counter sit-ins that made Nashville the first southern city to begin desegregating public places to leading the first historic Freedom Riders across the South, to chairing the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee that helped mobilize a generation, to addressing the March on Washington from the Lincoln Memorial. By the time he turned 25, JOHN had already lent his voice and his body to a full lifetime's work. But he wasn't finished yet.

That same spirit of urgency followed him here to Washington. Whether the day's issues found you on his side of the policy debate or on the opposite side, his warmth, friendliness, and dedication to his neighbors in Georgia's Fifth District made an impact on everyone.

I am reminded particularly of joining hands with him at a ceremony here in the Capitol honoring his friend, Dr. King, in 2008. As Members of Congress sang "We Shall Overcome," it was humbling to reflect on what the man standing next to me had suffered and sacrificed so that those words could be sung, at such an occasion, in that place.

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



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The memory of our colleague brings to mind Dr. King's own words. He famously said: "The arc of the moral universe is long, and it bends toward justice."

It would be a mistake to read those words and assume that he meant this bending is inevitable. Our society has only marched toward justice because great figures like Congressman JOHN LEWIS took it upon themselves to lead the way. The Nation mourns his passing, and we celebrate the life of this American hero.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on an entirely different matter, it has been half a year since the deadly coronavirus began to spread from China throughout the world. Now, 3.7 million cases have been recorded on American soil. More than 140,000 lives have been lost.

Today, our Nation stands at a challenging crossroads. States and localities are trying to balance the need to reopen and foster economic recovery with the need to stay on offense against the virus.

Back in March, the American people began a period of historic disruption and heroic sacrifice in order to stunt the spread of the virus. Life as we have known it was simply put on ice. Daily routines were reinvented, not as a permanent solution but as a short-term emergency measure to save our healthcare system.

The American people stepped up. The sacrifices saved lives. Nowhere in the United States did hospitals suffer the fate of the medical system in places like Italy.

Our Nation met new kinds of American heroes: doctors and nurses, who worked double shifts, washed their hands raw, and endured physical separation from their loved ones so they could continue to treat ours; essential maintenance, delivery, and grocery store workers, who kept clocking in to keep families, communities, and entire industries supplied and functioning; teachers and parents, who tried their best to keep school in session for our Nation's children, from virtual classrooms and kitchen tables all across our country.

No generation before us had ever had to pull the emergency brake on national life in quite this way. This historic challenge required historic support so the Senate wrote and passed the largest rescue package in history.

The CARES Act puts financial assistance in the pockets of American families. It sent hundreds of billions of dollars so that employers could keep paying workers. It mobilized unprecedented resources for the medical response. Economists and experts across the spectrum agreed that the Senate's bold, bipartisan policies have made a tremendous difference these past months.

The question before the Senate this week is, Where are we now? Where are

we now? On the one hand, our healthcare fight against the virus itself is very obviously unfinished. New spikes in large and economically central States show that we are nowhere near out of the woods. At the same time, neither economics nor our Nation's sanity would sustain an indefinite total lockdown until there is a vaccine. So even as we continue to fight the healthcare battle, cautious reopenings will need to proceed in ways that are as smart, safe, and data-driven as possible.

This is the situation facing the Senate as we discuss and consider the possibility of another recovery package. It would neither be another multitrillion-dollar bridge loan to make up for a totally shutdown economy, nor an ordinary stimulus for a nation ready to get back to normal. The need now lies somewhere in between.

We need to continue supporting our healthcare system and harbor no delusion that this virus is behind us because it isn't, while also taking strategic steps to help laid-off American workers get rehired and American families get their kids back to school this fall.

That is why Senate Republicans will be putting forward a strong starting point for additional recovery legislation, hopefully, as soon as this week. It will take good-faith, bipartisan cooperation from our Democratic colleagues to actually make a law. That productive spirit is what got the CARES Act across the finish line unanimously, but last month, that spirit was absent. A political determination from our Democratic colleagues led them to block the JUSTICE Act and block the Senate from even turning to the subject of police reform, even as millions had taken to the streets demanding change.

So, for the sake of our Nation, if we want to continue helping the American people, the next several weeks will need to look a lot more like March and a lot less like June. Senate Republicans will put forward our proposal soon. I hope our Democratic colleagues will be ready to work together to get an outcome.

First, this week, the Senate will complete two other important pieces of the people's business. First, we will confirm the President's choice to head the Office of Management and Budget. Then we will finish and pass the National Defense Authorization Act for the 60th consecutive time.

As COVID-19 captured our Nation's attention, we knew our adversaries around the world would not ease up. We knew that those who seek to harm America, our interests, and our allies would use the commotion to show even more of their true colors, and, sure enough, the Russian military has flirted even closer to the boundaries of U.S. airspace. Iran has stepped up its meddling in regional conflicts. China has escalated both its international bullying and its domestic repression, such as in Hong Kong.

So I am particularly encouraged that Chairman INHOFE, Ranking Member REED, and our committee colleagues put forward a robust, bipartisan bill. It will invest in the training and technology that will keep our fighting forces on the cutting edge. It will strengthen our alliances and partnerships with shared systems for containing threats. It will honor our servicemembers and their families with pay raises and top-notch services they deserve here at home. That means new investments in 5G systems and hypersonic weapons, the establishment of European and Pacific defense initiatives for greater cooperation to check Russia and China, and improving military family housing, education, and healthcare.

This NDAA will build on the success of the last 3 years in rebuilding and modernizing the world's greatest fighting forces. It will continue to advance our new national defense strategy, putting aside the naive resets of the past administration and continuing to invest in strength instead.

I will be proud to vote to advance and pass the NDAA, and I hope all of our colleagues will join me.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 7120

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The leader is correct.

The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7120) to hold law enforcement accountable for misconduct in court, improve transparency through data collection, and reform police training and policies.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under provision of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.