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Senate

The Senate met at 4 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.

Eternal Lord God, we again thank You for the life and legacy of Representative John Robert Lewis.

Lord, accept our gratitude for his ethical congruence that motivated him to find a moral way to get in the way. We are grateful that his passion for freedom summoned our Nation to embrace our best hopes and not our worst fears. Inspired by his exemplary pilgrimage, may our lawmakers strive to live with such integrity that they will stand on the right side of history.

Lord, help our Senators to strive to see You more clearly, to love You more dearly, and to follow You more nearly day by day.

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ERNST). 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.

FILIBUSTER

Mr. GRASSLEY. Former Vice President Biden and Minority Leader SCHUMER have indicated a willingness to end the so-called filibuster if Democrats gain a majority in the U.S. Senate after this year's election.

Meanwhile, Democrats used the same rule to prevent even taking up Senator SCOTT's very thoughtful police reform legislation. The rule in question is the cloture rule, which brings debate and amendments to a close so we can get to the finality of a bill. What Democrats blocked was ending debate on proceeding to police reform and starting to consider any amendments that wanted to be offered, but it would have taken yet another cloture vote to get to final passage.

The cloture rule ensures that no police reform bill could be passed by the U.S. Senate unless at least 60 Senators were satisfied with the outcome of the amendment process. In other words, it guarantees that the concerns of the minority party—whether that be Republican or Democrat—would have to be addressed. There was no excuse for preventing the Senate from even beginning the legislative process on this extremely important and timely issue of police reform.

There is also no excuse for Democrats who claimed to oppose the 60-vote requirement to cut off debate on principle when they were last in the majority, who then immediately began using cloture to block bills that had majority support when they lost their majority, and who still continue to use cloture to block progress on important issues today, but who now fully admit that they will change the Senate institution—the protection for the minority—if it suits their partisan purpose in the future.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam 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. Today, as we speak, the U.S. Congress confers a rare and high honor on a national hero who richly deserves it. Our distinguished late colleague, Congressman John Lewis, is lying in state in the Rotunda.

I had the honor to speak at this afternoon's ceremony—how amazing to reflect on John's incredible American life. It began deep in the segregated South, ran through lunch counters in Nashville, jail cells in Mississippi, across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, up the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, and brought him to the halls of Congress.

He made heroic contributions to our Nation's march toward racial justice. He also brought an unforgettable example of moral urgency, respect, and love to Washington that left an impact on everyone he met. His example will be missed here in the Capitol. He will be remembered forever by a grateful Nation because, as far as I am concerned, it is not really the rest of us in Congress who are conveying an honor upon John Lewis today, not this time. Rather, it is John who is bringing greater honor to us, to this Capitol, with his presence, one final time.

HEALS ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, COVID-19 has killed nearly 150,000 Americans. It has caused massive layoffs on a historic scale and left 17 million people out of work. It has thrown the lives and the trajectories of our Nation's children and young adults into uncertainty.

Our Nation stands now at an important crossroads in this battle. American families' historic sacrifices brought our medical system through

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



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