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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:

Eternal God, You have taken care of us in the years that have gone. We honor You for Your glory and strength. May we place our hope in You and never forget that You can also sustain us in the future.

Today, give our Senators the wisdom to trust You in the small things, realizing that faithfulness with the least prepares them for fidelity with the much. As they seek to be stewards of Your justice, mercy, and grace, use them to fulfill Your purposes. Lord, given them a love for Your wisdom and a passion to be guided by your precepts.

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 (Mrs. LOEFFLER). 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.

FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, now that the United Kingdom has separated from the European Union, it is our opportunity to sit down with the United Kingdom and do some business. Therefore, I am pleased that the United States and the United Kingdom are making strides in our negotiations to complete a free trade agreement.

Our two countries, as you know, have a centuries-old relationship. That relationship will be further strengthened by a comprehensive deal that presents economic opportunities for our farmers, our manufacturers, and our service providers to the benefit of both sides of the Atlantic.

I will continue to insist that an agreement reached between our two countries will allow us to reach our full potential as trading partners, particularly when it comes to agricultural trade.

The United Kingdom has been subject to very restrictive European Union rules that have no scientific basis. We call those sanitary and phytosanitary rules.

I urge the administration to work with the United Kingdom negotiators to achieve greater marketing access for U.S. farmers. In other words, I am tired of the EU restrictions that we have had over the last couple of decades on our GMO grains.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, when the Senate passed the CARES Act back in March, we were trying to prepare the Nation for economic paralysis and the medical battle of the century at the very same time. Hospitals, healthcare providers, small businesses, and working families needed help fast, and the Senate stepped up in historic fashion.

For months, our legislation has helped cushion the pain of this crisis from coast to coast, but our Nation is not finished with this fight. More Americans are dying every day. Millions and millions are unemployed. And

the institutions of American life cannot stay totally shut down until our race for a vaccine hits the finish line.

Our Nation needs to smartly and safely reopen while keeping up the medical battle. We need to get kids safely back to school and adults safely back to work without losing ground in the healthcare fight.

The coronavirus does not care that we are divided. The coronavirus will not care if Washington Democrats decide it suits their partisan goals to let relief run dry. The American people are hurting, and Congress should have their backs.

On Monday, I laid down a marker to shape the bipartisan conversations that need to happen now—not a loony, ideological fantasy like the House Democrats bill from a few months ago, which would have cut taxes for rich people, raised taxes on small business, and provided no additional round for the Paycheck Protection Program. No, serious talks actually require a serious starting point.

That is why we wrote a serious bill containing largely bipartisan policies. It has another round of cash for households—more than \$3,000 for an eligible family of four, with even more support for adult dependents; another round of additional Federal unemployment benefits assistance, which would otherwise simply expire; and another targeted round of the Paycheck Protection Program to prevent even more layoffs and keep paychecks coming to American workers. It has powerful new incentives to jump-start rehiring, bring down unemployment, and create safe workplaces for workers and customers. It has more support for hospitals and health providers; more support for testing, PPE, and diagnostics; and more resources for the sprint toward a vaccine. It has historic support for schools to reopen—a higher dollar amount than House Democrats managed to propose in their bill, which costs three times as much as ours.

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



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