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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, August 7, 2020, at 10 a.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020

The Senate met at 9:30 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.

O God, our shield, we rejoice in the gift of Your salvation.

Look with favor upon our Senators today, delivering them from fear and guiding them around the obstacles that hinder their progress. Lord, unite them for the common good of this great land. Manifest Your purposes to them, making clear Your plans and guiding them with Your love. Give them the wisdom to have confidence in Your power as You inspire them to use their talents as instruments of liberation and healing.

Almighty God, have compassion upon our Nation and world.

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. TILLIS). 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.

MESKWAKI POWWOW

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to speak about a Native American tradition in the State of Iowa. It is about the Meskwaki Nation—the only federally recognized Tribe in Iowa.

This year, many important annual community events have been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Each year, the Meskwaki Powwow serves as an opportunity to bring the Meskwaki Tribe together with fellow Iowans to share, learn, and honor the Meskwakis' unique contributions to our State. This gathering is important to preserving the Meskwakis' heritage and sharing it with the next generation.

In light of the cancellation, the Meskwakis are posting a number of educational resources on their Facebook page, at Meskwaki Nation, to honor the Meskwaki Annual Powwow week. I encourage Iowans to visit and learn.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

HEALS ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it has been 1 week since Senate Democrats forced the additional Federal benefit for jobless Americans to expire.

Senate Republicans tried everything to prevent the lapse. That Monday, we rolled out a comprehensive proposal for

another rescue package that would have kept extra Federal benefits flowing. The Democrats refused to act, so we tried to force the issue.

One of our Senators requested unanimous consent to continue these benefits through the end of the year at a still historically generous level. This plan would have also corrected the bizarre choice facing American workers whom the system was actually paying more to stay home than to resume working, but that wasn't good enough for the Democratic leader, and he objected.

Another Republican Senator then asked unanimous consent to extend Federal support exactly as it had been for 1 more week so that jobless Americans didn't have to bear the cost of the Democrats' leisurely negotiating pace. Once again, the Democratic leader objected.

Finally, Republicans forced a floor vote to demonstrate whether Senators were even willing to debate the issue, whether Senators would even consider extending these benefits, and every single Democrat present voted no.

The week since then has seen plenty of talk and plenty of stalling from the Democratic leaders, who have insisted on handling this themselves—but no significant movement toward progress. They have still kept their ranking members and more reasonable voices locked up. The Speaker and the Democratic leader continue to obstruct the kinds of committee-level discussions that delivered the CARES Act, which are no longer in style. Only they are allowed to speak. Only they among the

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



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