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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:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord, ride into our hearts today and fill us with Your power. Lord, give us such strength that we will face life's difficulties with faith, hope, and love. May our lawmakers so embrace these spiritual attributes that Your Name will be glorified throughout our Nation and world.

As our Senators dedicate their lives to obey Your precepts, direct them to Your desired destination. Lord, give them a faith that will not shrink when at times they cannot see clearly the road ahead. Help them to place their total trust in You.

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.

BELARUS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I imagine the people of the United States have been able to follow the demonstrations in Belarus in opposition to the President declaring victory there. Since Aleksandr Lukashenko came to power in Belarus in 1994, he has consolidated power, and, in the

process, suppressed democratic opposition.

So the fact that the Belarus August Presidential election was a sham, as we all know, and he was once again declared to be the winner by a highly implausible margin, should not surprise anyone. However, this time, the Belarusian people have had enough. This time, brutal crackdowns by security forces have not crushed grassroots demands for democracy.

The quest for liberty is embedded in the DNA of the American Republic, so the Americans naturally watch with interest as the people of Belarus continue to demand their God-given rights. The American people stand with the people of Belarus.

I also appreciate very much the strong stance taken by European governments supporting the Belarusian people as the American people have.

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.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, Republican Senators, like working families all across the country had hoped—hoped—the Senate would be spending this week completing more bipartisan pandemic relief.

We proposed another package with hundreds of billions of dollars to make schools safer for our kids, to help

American workers keep or regain their jobs, and to invest more in testing treatments and finding and distributing a vaccine. But alas, Democrats filibustered it all, apparently intent that working families cannot receive any more relief until election day.

Across the Capitol, Speaker PELOSI's excuses and Goldilocks games are even wearing thin on our fellow Democrats. A few weeks ago, more than 100 House Democrats publicly—publicly—asked Speaker PELOSI to stop blocking action on any coronavirus legislation besides her multitrillion-dollar, far-left wish list. She ignored them. She completely ignored them.

Yesterday, a number of House Democrats tried again. They released a new proposal they had written to some Republicans and pleaded with the Speaker to allow a vote on it. Again, she shot down any notion whatsoever of compromise. Now, bear in mind, the Speaker had explained she will block any compromise for kids, jobs, and healthcare because—because—passing anything short of multiple trillions of dollars would make her look like “a cheap date”—a cheap date.

The money that K–12 schools need, that unemployed workers need, and that we need for the race toward vaccines, Speaker PELOSI is blocking all of it because, apparently, to the San Francisco far left, anything short of multiple trillions of dollars would make her “a cheap date.” So, apparently, for the sake of the Speaker's personal ego, working families continue to suffer with no bipartisan help from Congress.

FILIBUSTERS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, now, since Democrats are stonewalling pandemic relief, the Senate is using our time to confirm more well-qualified judicial nominees to lifetime positions on the Federal bench. Renewing the Federal judiciary has been a major success over the last 4 years.

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



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