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Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon 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 God, our heavenly Father, we cry to You, but sometimes You seem so far away. In our despair, You sometimes seem distant, and we are tempted to surmise that we are all alone.

When we shout, we seem to hear the echoes of our anguish. Nonetheless, we know that You are holy, mighty, and good. We have trusted You too long to let go.

Empower our Senators for these challenging times. Remove from their minds all bitterness and contempt for one another. Keep their hearts clean, their spirits courageous, and their minds clear as they face these daunting times.

We pray in Your omnipotent 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

The President pro tempore.

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.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, President Trump was rightly criticized

for dodging a question about the peaceful transfer of power. Instead, Trump criticized mail-in ballots and rejected the premise that he will lose.

No, that doesn't mean that he is planning some sort of coup, but it is important for any President to choose their words very carefully.

The same is true for partisans on the other side whipping up fear that our democracy is in jeopardy or that the ballots will not be counted. Even worse is the rhetoric setting the stage to delegitimize any future Trump victory.

We now hear full-blown conspiracy theories. Let me mention a few. A group of Biden supporters conducted a war game speculating that the President will not leave office without a Biden landslide, questioning what the military would do.

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff stepped in with a simple civics lesson. The U.S. military has no role in the elections, he said.

Democrats have doubled down on this debunked theory that the Postal Service is plotting with Trump to disrupt the election mail. The Postal Service does not answer to the President of the United States. It has plenty of capacity to deliver election mail. Plus, the Federal Government doesn't run elections; the 50 States run those elections.

A key goal of Russian "active measures," dating back to the Cold War, has been to get Americans to doubt their government, its leaders, and democratic institutions. Let's not do Russia's dirty work for them. No American should be questioning our free and fair elections.

Now to my State of Iowa. Our people who have requested absentee ballots will have ballots mailed to them starting on October 5. Remember to fill it out completely, including your driver's license or voter PIN number, and mail them to your county auditor well before election day but not later than the day before.

Your ballot can be tracked on the secretary of state's website. Check out where your ballot is.

I have great faith in Iowa's election officials and our postal workers. Iowans who vote in person or absentee can be assured that your vote will count—the same as any election.

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.

NOMINATION OF AMY CONEY BARRETT

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, at this time last week, the Nation did not know whom President Trump would be nominating to the Supreme Court, but, amazingly, we did know what kinds of false attacks the far left would deploy against whoever it was.

Democrats and special interests have been telling the country for 45 years—45 years—that every Supreme Court vacancy under a Republican President was going to bring about the apocalypse. John Paul Stevens, they said, was anti-woman. David Souter, they said, wanted to hurt vulnerable people. John Roberts was out to get health insurance.

And wouldn't you know, the President had barely finished saying Judge Amy Coney Barrett's name before the same old attacks began rolling in. Our 77-year-old male former Vice President and our 69-year-old male Senate Democratic leader have tried to inform

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



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