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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 6, 2020, at 9 a.m.

Senate

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2020

The Senate met at 4:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROGER F. WICKER, a Senator from the State of Mississippi.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer.

Let us pray.

Mighty God, You are our dwelling place and underneath are Your everlasting arms. May our President and First Lady feel Your healing touch. May our Senators who are dealing with the personal health challenge of COVID-19 also experience Your divine healing and comfort.

Lord, we trust in Your support, for You continue to be the source of our hope and peace. Give us great faith as we feel You near even in the darkness.

Lord, provide our lawmakers with such fortitude that they can walk calmly through life's storms. We pray in Your wonderful Name.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 5, 2020.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROGER F. WICKER, a Senator from the State of Mississippi, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WICKER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate has spent the last few days like all Americans have, praying for quick healing and smooth recovery for President Trump and the First Lady following their positive COVID-19 tests.

I spoke to the President by phone twice this past weekend. Both times, his spirits were high. Both times, we talked about the people's business: our Nation's fight against this pandemic; his exceptional nominee to the Supreme Court, Judge Barrett; as well as our efforts to continue rebuilding the economy for working families.

We are also thinking of our friends and colleagues, the senior Senator for

Utah, the senior Senator for Wisconsin, and the junior Senator for North Carolina, who are currently working from home. The standard cliché would say that these past few days have provided a stark reminder of the dangers of this terrible virus, but the truth is that our Nation did not need any such reminder.

More than 209,000 of our fellow citizens have lost their lives. Millions have battled illness or had their lives disrupted by positive tests. This past weekend, my home State of Kentucky just recorded its highest ever—highest ever—one-day total for new cases. We all need to remain vigilant. We all need to remain careful.

If the Speaker of the House and the Democratic leader had not spent months blocking another bipartisan relief package over unrelated, far-left poison pills, we could have put hundreds of billions more dollars for kids, jobs, and healthcare in the pipeline many weeks ago.

For the sake of our Nation, let's hope they finally lay down their partisan demands and let our country get back on offense against this disease.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, in just a moment, I will move to withdraw the pending cloture petitions and recess the Senate with pro forma meetings until 2 weeks from today. Members will receive at least 24 hours' notice if any votes on urgent matters are scheduled before October 19. That would take bipartisan consent. Otherwise, the full Senate will next meet on October 19.

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



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