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Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, October 19, 2020)

The Senate met at 12 noon, on the expiration of the recess, 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.

Great God and Father, Your anger lasts only for a moment, but Your favor lasts a lifetime. Lord, open our eyes to see the wonders of Your grace and the majesty of Your love for people everywhere. Keep our lawmakers from being blind to the work You are doing in our world. Bring healing to the sick and liberation to the oppressed.

Lord, You have watched over this land we love from generation to generation, in prosperity and adversity, in peace and war. Today, keep our Senators so dedicated that they will do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with 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.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Michael Jay Newman, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DAN GABLE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, fellow Iowan Dan Gable is one of the greatest athletes and coaches in American history. President Trump has selected Dan to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the highest civilian honor. I sent a letter to the White House after hearing about grassroots support in Iowa for this award.

Dan Gable is a household name for every Iowa sports fan. As a wrestler at Iowa State University, Dan won two collegiate championships—a world championship and an Olympic Gold Medal. His overall high school and college records are 181 victories, 1 defeat. That one defeat came in the finals of the NCAA tournament of his senior year. In his coaching career at the University of Iowa, he led to 15 national team championships out of the 21 years that he coached.

As a coach at the University of Iowa, Dan developed All Americans, national champions, Big Ten champions, and Olympians. Dan is the paragon of the American dream in his achieving success through community, courage, hard work, and determination.

I congratulate Dan on this outstanding achievement.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, “It would have been really hard for us to get through without it.” That was the coowner of Apollo Pizza, which has a handful of locations throughout Kentucky.

“It touches my heart just knowing that I can bring folks back and gainfully employ people who need to work.” That was a restaurateur in Fayetteville, NC.

“It’s pennies from heaven as far as our business is concerned.” That was

one small business owner in Highlands Ranch, CO.

“It just made sense to us that if we’re going to be able to get money from the government . . . spend it on our employees.” That is from a fourth-generation owner of a bagel shop in Ferndale, MI.

Those are just four of the millions and millions of hard-working Americans who have had an economic lifeline to help them endure this crisis year. That lifeline is the Paycheck Protection Program, the PPP.

About 7 months ago, our Nation’s top medical experts recommended we do something without precedent—shutter whole sectors of the economy to protect Americans from the pandemic. Congress needed a historic plan to help workers, and our colleagues Senator Rubio and Senator Collins stepped forward. They realized we could not simply let Main Street go under. We could not simply tell millions and millions more workers to forget about their jobs and join the unemployment lines. We couldn’t just let every storefront except the biggest corporate retailers turn into permanent pandemic ghost towns. We had to give small businesses and their workers a fighting chance.

The senior Senators from Maine and Florida found the solution. They literally invented the PPP. It would fund emergency loans to employers, and those loans would be forgivable so long as the money would be used to keep paying their people. As far as emergency government rescues go, their idea was actually a bold, free-enterprise policy. Don’t just sign everyone up for welfare; fight to save jobs. Keep workers connected to their jobs and their paychecks.

As we wrote the CARES Act, Senators Rubio and Collins got together with Senator CARDIN and put the finishing touches on the program. Soon, the PPP had become law without a single dissenting vote in either Chamber.

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



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