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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, October 23, 2020, at 11:30 a.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2020

(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.

Lord of Heaven's Army, we find our joy from trusting You. Today we are trusting Your promise to supply all our needs from Your celestial riches.

Lord, as we differ in faces, so we are different in our needs. Provide for the myriad needs of our Nation and world. Bring healing to the sick, comfort to those who grieve, and wisdom to those who seek to meet the challenges of a global health crisis.

Lord, give our lawmakers Your strength. We claim Your promise that You will not withhold any good thing from those who do what is right.

We pray in Your great 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 New-

man, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). The President pro tempore.

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

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

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, what we have seen over the last week are attempts to get COVID relief up and Democrats won't let us bring it up, even though there is widespread agreement on the need for more COVID relief for families, for small businesses, for farms, for schools and colleges, and for additional funding for testing and vaccines. These are all noncontroversial items being held up by Democrat leaders' all-or-nothing negotiating position.

One controversial item they insist on is bailing out irresponsible State governments.

Iowa's years of sound governance and fiscal responsibility, including a rainy day fund that is full, has paid off in times like this. A study for the Council of State Governments ranked every State's ability to weather the economic impact of the pandemic. It found my State of Iowa to be fiscally sound—the most resilient State in the country.

In addition to the Council of State Governments, the CATO Institute ranked our Governor's fiscal policy second out of all 50 States. Other States

haven't made the same tough decisions and weren't ready before the pandemic.

Now Democrats want Iowans' Federal tax money to bail out irresponsible State governments and somehow this is worth holding up relief for struggling families. Come on.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday evening the Directors of National Intelligence and the FBI updated the public on foreign efforts to influence our election and our government's work to prevent them. They announced that Iran and Russia exploited voter information to send misleading emails. This is just another reminder that multiple different adversaries with multiple different objectives want to fuel divisions among Americans and create chaos. Iran, China, Russia, and other adversaries may have different goals, but they all share the same primary objective of undermining America's confidence in our democracy, and they are thrilled when their disinformation causes us to point fingers at each other rather than at them.

The good news is that we have spent the last 4 years gearing up for this. Unlike the Obama-Biden administration, on whose watch even Democrats admit we were caught flatfooted, the Trump administration has worked overtime with Congress and other actors to get us ready.

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



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