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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2020, at 10 a.m.

Senate

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 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.

O God, You are our God. We can stay composed even in a storm because of Your presence. We need You and stay thirsty for You, for Your power and glory uplift us. Your steadfast love is our reason for being, and we will bless Your Name for as long as we live.

Lord, empower our Senators to run toward life's challenges and hardships, knowing that they are never alone. Satisfy their souls with good things and transform the mundane into the meaningful. Draw them close to You as You purify their hearts and provide them with a spirit of hope.

We pray in Your loving 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 PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). The Senator from Iowa.

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

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

IOWA HARVEST SEASON

Mr. GRASSLEY. Across Iowa this weekend, farmers will be in their fields as they continue the 2020 harvest season. Iowa farmers have now harvested all but about 10 percent of our soybeans and 30 percent of our corn.

Because I am in Washington, DC, this weekend with the confirmation of Judge Barrett, I won't be able to give my social media followers my weekly update on the 2020 hashtag "CornWatch" or hashtag "SoybeanWatch" series from the Grassley farm. The purpose of this weekly series is to give people who have never stepped foot on a farm an idea of the complexities that go into planning, growing, and harvesting a bountiful crop.

Between COVID-19 supply chain disruptions, drought, and a derecho, the 86,000 Iowa farm families have faced one of the most challenging years in recent memory. Farmers are only 2 percent of the population, but they provide food, fuel, and fiber for the other 98 percent.

I want to send my best wishes to farmers and their families as we are nearing the final stretch of the harvest season.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATION OF AMY CONEY BARRETT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday, the Senate took the first step toward concluding our consideration of Judge Amy Coney Barrett's nomination to the Supreme Court. The judge is one of the most brilliant, admired, and impressive nominees for any public office in a generation. Tomorrow, we will vote on advancing her nomination toward final confirmation on Monday.

Our recent debates have been heated, but, curiously, talk of Judge Barrett's actual credentials or qualifications has hardly featured in it. The Democratic leader summarized his view yesterday: "It's not about qualifications"—his words.

Instead, our Democratic colleagues have tried to claim the Senate's process itself is not legitimate. These claims are supposed to lay groundwork for radical, institution-wrecking changes down the road.

But, of course, they are not true. We live in a constitutional Republic. The legitimacy of an outcome does not depend on the feelings it provokes in politicians. Let me say that again: The legitimacy of an outcome does not depend on the feelings it provokes in politicians. Legitimacy comes from precedence, rules, and, ultimately, the Constitution.

Let's restate a few facts for posterity. No. 1, there is no inconsistency between the Republican Senate's decision in 2016 and our decision to confirm Judge Barrett this year.

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



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