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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 28, 2021, at 9 a.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2021

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, our Father, thank You for the gift of this day. Lord, we are grateful for the blessing of Your unfailing love, for Your mercies endure forever.

Keep our lawmakers on the proper path. Lead them to strive for righteousness and humility. As You show them the path to choose, give them the wisdom to live for Your honor. Remind them that You are a friend to those who possess referential awe. Rescue them from the traps of their enemies.

Lord, You are our hope for the years to come.

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.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. LUJÁN. Mr. President, 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. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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 (Mr. LUJÁN). The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATION OF ALEJANDRO NICHOLAS MAYORKAS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, it has been 3 weeks since a mob of domestic terrorists stormed the U.S. Capitol in an effort to thwart our democratic system of government. In the weeks since, the underlying threat of violence to our government remains of great concern.

One of the most important responsibilities of the new administration—is to protect our country and its citizens. The Senate must continue the process of confirming President Biden's Cabinet by installing Alejandro Mayorkas to serve as Secretary of Homeland Security. In truth, we should have been able to confirm Mr. Mayorkas days ago. He is supremely well qualified for the job. He is the son of immigrants whose family escaped from the Holocaust, a prosecutor, a veteran of 7 years who led the Agency's response on Ebola, cyber security, border security, counterterrorism, and domestic terrorism.

Just 4 years ago, President Trump had his Secretary of Homeland Security installed on Inauguration Day. As four previous Secretaries of Homeland

Security under Presidents of both parties wrote recently: After the attacks on the Capitol on January 6, it is more urgent than ever to have in place an experienced, capable, and Senate-confirmed leader. That person is Mayorkas.

That was four previous Homeland Secretaries from both parties.

Unfortunately, because of the objections of one Member, the Senate has not been allowed to vote on this nomination yet. It is the Senate's responsibility to make sure national security officials are on the job and keeping our country safe.

My friends on the other side don't have to agree with Mr. Mayorkas on the finer points of every policy, but surely we can all agree that he knows the Department, he understands the threats to our Nation's security, and he has what it takes to lead DHS. The Senate must confirm his nomination in very short order, and we will make sure that happens.

We must continue on to the rest of the President's Cabinet as well. The President's nominee for Secretary of Transportation was voted out of committee this morning on an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote, 21 to 3. With cooperation, the Senate can and should confirm Mr. Buttigieg soon, as well.

CLIMATE

Mr. SCHUMER. On climate, today President Biden is set to announce a slew of Executive actions on climate, including critical measures to increase the conservation of Federal lands, reduce oil and gas development, and

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



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