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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JACKY ROSEN, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Lord of our destiny, whose commands enable us to experience rich and satisfying living, we thank You for today's National Prayer Breakfast where we were told to please You by doing justice, loving mercy, and walking with humility.

Inspire our lawmakers to strive to meet these celestial expectations. Enlighten their hearts with Your wisdom that leads to fairness. Give them civility of demeanor and decisiveness of character that brings mercy. Clothe them with Your humility and provide them with the gift of Your peace as they seek to represent You.

We pray in Your righteous 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. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 3, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JACKY ROSEN, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. ROSEN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Alexandra Baker, of New Jersey, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SYRIA

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, earlier this morning, Americans learned that, thanks to the skill and bravery of our Armed Forces, we have taken off the battlefield the world leader of ISIS. I want to thank the incredible work of our brave military servicemembers who work day and night to keep Americans safe. So many have suffered at the brutal hand of ISIS.

Senators will learn more about the operation later this morning during our classified, all-Senators briefing with Secretary Austin and other senior administration officials.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Madam President, on USICA and the America COMPETES Act, in the first year under President Biden and the Senate Democratic majority, America saw its strongest economic growth in decades, including increases in wages—very, very important to the American people, who have not seen enough of that over the last two decades.

This week, Congress is taking a major step to build on that success by advancing legislation that will help lower costs, relieve U.S. supply chains, and bring manufacturing back to the United States.

Over the next 2 days, the House will debate and vote to pass a companion bill to the Senate's U.S. Innovation and Competition Act, which we approved last summer, of course, with strong bipartisan support. I am pleased the House is taking this important step.

I have been pushing for months for progress on this legislation to strengthen supply chains and boost our technological competitiveness. Senators from both sides of the aisle want to see a competition and technology bill finally enacted. After this week, we will hopefully be one step closer to achieving that goal.

Americans are demanding bold solutions to help lower the cost of living, and businesses from coast to coast need help to relieve supply chains strained by the pandemic. Legislation along the lines of USICA is just what the doctor ordered. It would provide the long-term help our country needs to lower costs and help businesses grow right here at home—jobs here in America, not overseas.

One of the best examples of why this bill is needed is our Nation's dangerous chip shortage. The shortage has sent shock waves across the economy,

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

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