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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.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.

Eternal Spirit, who brings a rich harvest with Your footsteps, we praise Your Name and celebrate Your goodness. Lord, remind us that, without Your help, there is no national security. May we focus less on what we can accomplish and more on Your prevailing providence.

Send Your peace into the hearts of our Senators. Lord, take away distracting worries and fill them with faith. Cleanse them from any bitter or unforgiving spirit as You give them contentment in serving You and this great Nation.

We pray in Your merciful 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The 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 Maria del R. Antongiorgi-Jordan, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING THE VICTIMS OF THE TOPS SUPERMARKET SHOOTING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, before I begin the substance of my remarks, today the people of Buffalo, NY, observe a somber remembrance: 6 months ago to the day that 10 New Yorkers were killed in a terrible shooting at the Tops Supermarket on Jefferson Avenue. A few moments ago, the city of Buffalo held a moment of silence to honor those killed and those wounded, and we joined with them in prayer and remembrance.

And today, because gun violence is still all too much with us, we hold in our hearts everyone at the University of Virginia where, last night, three students were tragically killed in a shooting on campus. Our condolences go out to the families of those lost, as well as to everyone in Charlottesville who is grieving today.

MIDTERM ELECTIONS AND THE 117TH CONGRESS

Now, Madam President, let me be the first to welcome you and all my colleagues back to the U.S. Senate. There is a lot to do, a lot to say, and I am glad to be back here on the floor with my colleagues to continue serving the American people. I want to thank the voters of New York, who have elected me for a fifth term—the first Senator ever from New York to have five terms—and I promise the people of New York that I will serve you as diligently and work just as hard for you as I have in the previous years. So thank you for the faith that you have shown in me.

And, Madam President, last Tuesday, Americans made their voices heard in one of the most remarkable midterm elections in modern history. With our democracy at stake, with our fundamental liberties on the line, and with a clear choice between moving America forward or holding it back, the American people spoke loud and clear. Democrats will retain the majority in the Senate, and House Democrats, under the leadership of Speaker PELOSI, defied precedent and remain within striking distance of defending their majority as well. The election was a great win for the Democratic Party but, more importantly, a great win for the American people.

And let me say this. Two things happened, Madam President, in the last 2 years. First, this Senate and this Congress passed a huge agenda, the most comprehensive agenda affecting and helping American families that has occurred in decades. Second, Democrats won the elections here in the Senate and many in the House. Those two statements are directly related. Because Democrats had a strong agenda here and did things for the American people, we won. And despite the negativity and divisiveness, the threats of violence and even the violence itself that occurred with MAGA Republicanism dominating the country, the American people stepped back from the

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

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