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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 1, 2017, at 11 a.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JULY 31, 2017

The Senate met at 4 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who transforms common days into transfiguring and redemptive moments, hallowed be Your Name. Make our lawmakers great enough for these momentous times, as they seek to live worthy of Your great Name. May Your precepts keep them from life's pitfalls, guiding them through the darkness to a safe haven. Lord, cleanse the fountains of their hearts from all that defiles, so that they may be fit vessels to be used for Your glory. Let Your peace be within them, as Your Spirit inspires them to glorify You in their thoughts, words, and actions.

We pray in Your wonderful 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATION OF KEVIN NEWSOM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this week the Senate will continue considering a number of nominations, beginning with Kevin Newsom of Alabama to serve as judge on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Mr. Newsom has earned bipartisan support, having been voted out of the Judiciary Committee 18 to 2. As Chairman GRASSLEY pointed out prior to that vote, several lifelong Democrats and Republicans have penned letters to the committee touting Mr. Newsom's "professionalism and qualifications." He is an "exceptionally accomplished nominee," Chairman GRASSLEY said, "who spent the last 20 years building an impressive legal resume."

That resume includes things like clerking for an Associate Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court, serving as Alabama's solicitor general, and earning an appointment to the Advisory Committee on Appellate Rules.

For his exceptional work, Mr. Newsom has garnered a number of awards from the legal community. The American Lawyer magazine has included him on its list of America's top 50 litigators under age 45. Chambers USA has ranked him Band 1 for appellate litigation. The National Association of Attorneys General has awarded him on several occasions the Best Brief Award for his briefing before the Supreme Court.

During his impressive legal career, Mr. Newsom has argued four cases before the Supreme Court, filed amicus briefs in many other cases, and argued more than 35 cases in Federal circuit courts.

As indicated by his distinguished professional background, Mr. Newsom will be an excellent addition to the court. I look forward to supporting his nomination today and confirming him to the Eleventh Circuit later this week.

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

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Newsom nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kevin Christopher Newsom, of Alabama, to be

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



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