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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CINDY HYDE-SMITH, a Senator from the State of Mississippi.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, You are our help in ages past and our hope for years to come. We find consolation from the knowledge that our times are in Your hands. Forgive us when we doubt Your power, mercy, and love.

Bless our lawmakers. Help them to remember that You love them so much that You want what is best for them. You are so wise that You know what is best for them and so powerful that You can bring about what is for their ultimate good. Give each of our Senators a fresh burst of enthusiasm for the next stage in the unfolding scene of the American Dream.

We pray in Your great 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. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 15, 2018.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable CINDY HYDE-SMITH, a Senator from the State of Mississippi, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH 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.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the President of the United States swears an oath to protect and defend the Constitution, including bedrock principles like the rule of law and the sanctity of our elections. But nearly every day, President Trump ignores this fundamental responsibility and tramples on the values that have made our country the light of the world. No President has come close to defaming and trying to destroy the democratic values of this country. No President has come close—none.

This morning, for what seemed like the millionth time, the President angrily, wildly, and baselessly ranted about the special counsel's investigation. It doesn't matter to him that his

claims have no basis. It doesn't matter to him that his words may degrade faith in our independent law enforcement agencies and the rule of law. He proceeds only according to self-interest. He is offended that someone might look into the fact that he did something wrong—this happens with every President—and he lashes out in ways that hurt our democracy permanently.

Just look at how over the past few weeks President Trump has tried to intimidate and bully election officials in Florida and Arizona with fantastical claims of voter fraud. It doesn't matter to him that there is no evidence to the charges. It doesn't matter to him that in both States—Arizona and Florida—Republican officials have said there is no fraud, debunking the President's claims. It doesn't matter to him that his claims erode faith in the integrity of our elections among a segment of his supporters. If the President thinks it will help him personally, he will say it.

One of the most recent examples of this just happened yesterday. The President keeps getting more and more absurd. He makes things up. He most recently claimed in an interview with the Daily Caller that "illegal" voters "go to their car, put on a different hat, put on a different shirt, and vote again."

Name one. Name a few. When did it happen and when? Or did you just read this on some rightwing, nasty, dishonest blog and just repeat it? Donald Trump, you are the President of the United States. Because you read something in a blog that has no basis in fact, you don't have the right to repeat it, if you are President and behaving Presidentially, and yet he does it over and over. It is the height of irresponsibility.

Since his first day in office, President Trump has made these ridiculous claims about voter fraud that even his sham voting commission, led by Kris Kobach, couldn't prove. The real disgrace is how low the President 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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