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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DEAN HELLER, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

PRAYER

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

O God, our protector, mountains melt in Your presence and islands shout for joy. We praise You because Your ways are just and true. Lord, You know our hearts and minds like an open book. Thank You for the security we have in You. When all around us seems daunting, You alone remain our rock and refuge.

Give our lawmakers this day such reverence for You that they will stay in the path of integrity. May they think about You throughout the day, whispering prayers of gratitude for Your goodness and grace.

Lead our national and international leaders on the road that will bring glory to Your Name. Lord, give them the courage to speak for justice, truth, and peace.

We pray in Your Holy 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 13, 2018.

To the Senate:

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

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. HELLER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3747

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read the title of the bill as follows:

A bill (S. 3747) to provide for programs to help reduce the risk that prisoners will recidivate upon release from prison, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar, under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate began this week with a long list of important unfinished business. And make no mistake—that list remains lengthy. It will require the continued good-faith efforts of Members on both sides of the aisle to keep up the progress.

We need to confirm more of the well-qualified nominees who remain waiting on the Senate's calendar. We need to deliver the targeted resources that are necessary for securing our border and fund the remaining parts of the Federal Government.

Today, of course, debate will continue on the Sanders-Lee resolution with respect to U.S. involvement in Yemen. As I stated yesterday, their resolution is not sufficiently prudent nor sufficiently precise for the job at hand. Yes, the Senate wants Saudi Arabia to act responsibly. We want to see a more stable Yemen for the sake of the Yemeni people. We also want to preserve this 70-year partnership, which serves our interests and helps stabilize a crucial region.

The resolution before us is a blunt and imprecise measure that would not advance these delicate goals. To the contrary, it would jeopardize U.S. support that has actually limited civilian casualties. And I maintain that since genuine hostilities are not involved, the resolution should not even be privileged under the War Powers Act.

I urge my colleagues to vote against their resolution and to support Chairman CORKER's more responsible alternative in its place.

Even considering the work still before us, Members should take pride in the significant milestones we have checked off this week.

On Tuesday, the Senate completed the 30th Federal circuit judge confirmation of this Congress.

Yesterday evening, the Senate and the House reached a landmark agreement to reform the process by which Capitol Hill itself handles claims of sexual harassment, discrimination, and other workplace violations. It is a bicameral and bipartisan agreement. It strengthens protections for victims. It ensures that Members of Congress shall be held responsible for their own misconduct, not taxpayers. It contains a number of other important reforms to

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



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