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Senate

The Senate met at 1:05 p.m. and was called to order by the Chief Justice of the United States.

TRIAL OF DONALD J. TRUMP, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The CHIEF JUSTICE. The Senate will convene as a Court of Impeachment.

The Chaplain will please lead us in prayer.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, as we resume this impeachment trial, let Your will be done. Enlighten our Senators as You show them Your will. Lord, guide them with Your wisdom, supporting them with Your power. In spite of disagreements, may they strive for civility and respect. May they respect the right of the opposing side to differ regarding convictions and conclusions. Give them the wisdom to distinguish between facts and opinions without lambasting the messengers.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Chief Justice 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.

THE JOURNAL

The CHIEF JUSTICE. Will Senators please be seated.

If there is no objection, the Journal of proceedings of the trial are approved to date.

Hearing no objection, it is so ordered.

The Sergeant at Arms will make the proclamation.

The Sergeant at Arms, Michael C. Stenger, made proclamation as follows:

Hear ye! Hear ye! Hear ye! All persons are commanded to keep silence, on pain of imprisonment, while the Senate of the United

States is sitting for the trial of the articles of impeachment exhibited by the House of Representatives against Donald John Trump, President of the United States.

The CHIEF JUSTICE. The majority leader is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. Chief Justice, for all of our colleagues' information about scheduling, today we will plan to take short breaks every 2 to 3 hours and will accommodate a 30-minute recess for dinner, assuming it is needed, until the House managers have finished their opening presentation.

For scheduling purposes, we have organized tomorrow's session to convene at 10 a.m. and run for several hours as the President's counsel begin their presentation.

The CHIEF JUSTICE. Pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 483, the managers for the House of Representatives have 7 hours 53 minutes remaining to make the presentation of their case.

The Senate will now hear you.

OPENING STATEMENT—CONTINUED

Mr. Manager SCHIFF. Mr. Chief Justice, Senators, distinguished counsel of the President, I keep wanting to say "good morning," but good afternoon. I just wanted to give a very brief orientation to the argument you will hear today.

We will begin with JASON CROW, who was talking about the conditionality of the military assistance. This is the latter part, although not the end, of the argumentation on the application of the constitutional law as it respects article I, the abuse of power. I will have a presentation after Mr. CROW, and soon thereafter we will conclude the presentation on article I. We will then begin the presentation on article II, once again applying the constitutional law to the facts on the President's obstruction of Congress. We will then have some concluding thoughts and then turn it over to the President's counsel.

That is what you should expect for the day, and with that, I will now yield to Mr. CROW of Colorado.

Mr. Manager CROW. Mr. Chief Justice, good afternoon. I woke up this morning and walked to my local coffee shop, where, unlike my esteemed colleague Mr. JEFFRIES from New York, nobody complained to me about Colorado baseball. So I could only conclude that this is only a New York Yankees problem.

As Mr. SCHIFF mentioned, we talked last night about the July 25 call and the multiple officials who had confirmed the intent of the President in withholding the aid, so now I would like to turn to what happened around the time the aid was lifted.

We know that the aid was lifted ultimately on September 11, but it wasn't lifted for any legitimate reason. It was only lifted because President Trump had gotten caught. Let's go through how we know that.

On August 26, the whistleblower complaint had been sent to the Director of National Intelligence, and public reports indicate that President Trump was told about the complaint by White House Counsel Pat Cipollone.

On September 5, though, the scheme became public. An editorial in the Washington Post on that day, for the first time publicly, explicitly linked the military aid hold and the investigations that President Trump wanted.

Keep in mind that public scrutiny of the President's hold increased exponentially after this became public. And this is where things start moving really fast.

A few days later, on September 9, the House investigative committees publicly announced their investigation of the President's conduct in Ukraine. Lieutenant Colonel Vindman testified to the National Security Council, and others at the White House learned about the investigation when it was announced. And a colleague of his said that it might have the effect of releasing the aid. On that same day, 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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