



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 166

WASHINGTON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2020

No. 16

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, January 27, 2020, at 2 p.m.

Senate

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 2020

The Senate met at 10:03 a.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 lead us in prayer.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the way, the truth, and the life, unite our Senators in their striving to do Your will.

Lord, You have been our help in ages past. You are our hope for the years to come. We trust the power of Your prevailing providence to bring this impeachment trial to the conclusion You desire.

Lord, we acknowledge that Your thoughts are not our thoughts and Your ways are not our ways; for as the heavens are higher than the Earth, so are Your thoughts higher than our thoughts and Your ways higher than our ways.

Lord, we love You. Empower our Senators. Renew their strength.

We pray in Your dependable 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. If there is no objection, the Journal of proceedings of the trial is approved to date.

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, colleagues, we should expect 2 to 3 hours of session today. We will take a quick break if needed.

The CHIEF JUSTICE. Pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 483, the counsel for the President have 24 hours to make the presentation of their case.

The Senate will now hear you.

The Presiding Officer recognizes Mr. Cipollone to begin the presentation of the case for the President.

OPENING STATEMENT

Mr. Counsel CIPOLLONE. Mr. Chief Justice, Senators, Leader MCCONNELL, Democratic Leader SCHUMER, thank you for your time and thank you for your attention. I want to start out, just very briefly, giving you a short plan for today. We are going to be very respectful of your time. As Leader MCCONNELL said, we anticipate going about 2 to 3 hours at most and to be out of here by 1 at the latest.

We are going to focus today on two points. You heard the House managers

speak for nearly 24 hours over 3 days. We don't anticipate using that much time. We don't believe that they have come anywhere close to meeting their burden for what they are asking you to do. In fact, we believe that, when you hear the facts—and that is what we intend to cover today, the facts—you will find that the President did absolutely nothing wrong. What we intend to do today—and we will have more presentations in greater detail on Monday, but what we intend to do today—is go through their record that they established in the House, and we intend to show you some of the evidence that they adduced in the House that they decided, over their 3 days and 24 hours, that they didn't have enough time or made a decision not to show you.

And every time you see one of these pieces of evidence, ask yourself: Why didn't I see that in the first 3 days? They had it. It came out of their process. Why didn't they show that to the Senate? I think that is an important question because, as House managers, really, their goal should be to give you all of the facts, because they are asking you to do something very, very consequential and, I would submit to you—to use a word that Mr. SCHIFF used a lot—very, very dangerous.

That is the second point that I would ask you to keep in mind today. They are asking you not only to overturn the results of the last election, but as I have said before, they are asking you to remove President Trump from the ballot in an election that is occurring in approximately 9 months. They are asking you to tear up all of the ballots

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



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