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Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon 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.

God of all mercies, in whose love and wisdom lies all our hope, still our anxious hearts as we bring our weakness to Your might, our failure to Your perfection, and our smallness to Your greatness. From a world with its tragedies and setbacks, we turn for this hallowed moment to be still and know that You are God.

Continue to sustain our lawmakers. Save them from the dangers that lurk in a flawed judgment of confused reckoning and a narrow outlook. Bless the members of their staffs who labor with them to keep our Nation strong.

And, Lord, comfort the Biden family and all those who are grieving the loss of Beau Biden.

We pray in Your merciful 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 (Mr. HELLER). The majority leader is recognized.

USA FREEDOM ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, last night the Senate voted to advance the House-passed FISA bill. We will have a vote on that legislation as soon as we

can. On our way there, we should take some commonsense steps to ensure the new system envisioned by that legislation—a system we would soon have to rely upon to keep our country safe—will, in fact, actually work. The amendments filed last night would help do just that.

For example, one amendment would ensure that there is adequate time to build and test a system that doesn't yet exist. One amendment would ensure that there is adequate time to build and test a system that doesn't even exist yet. Another would require that once the new system is actually built, the Director of National Intelligence reviews it and certifies that it actually works. I will say that again. The second amendment would require that once the new system is actually built, the Director of National Intelligence reviews the new system and certifies that it will actually work. Amendment No. 3 would require simple notification if the providers decide to change their data-retention policies. It will just require them to notify us if the providers decide to change their data-retention policies. Three amendments to improve the bill.

These fixes are common sense, and whatever one thinks of the proposed new system, there needs to be basic assurance that it will function as its proponents say it will. The Senate should adopt these basic safeguards.

I had hoped to see committees working hard to advance bipartisan, compromise FISA legislation this week, which is why I had offered several temporary extensions of the existing program to allow the space for that to occur. But these proposed short-term extensions were either voted down or objected to, including a very narrow extension of some of the least controversial tools contained within the program that we are considering.

So this is where we are. It now falls on all of us to work diligently and responsibly to get the American people

the best outcome that can be reasonably expected in this reality with which we are confronted. That is my commitment, and I know many of my colleagues share it as well.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JOHNSON). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Florida.

REMEMBERING BEAU BIDEN

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I wish to speak about the FISA bill, but before I do, I want to express what is in every one of our hearts—our grieving with the JOE BIDEN family. That family has had more than its share of tragedy, but what it has produced is, in the case of Beau Biden, an extraordinary public servant who served his country not only by elected office but by serving in uniform as well.

Most of us in this Chamber know the Biden family. The dad and the now mom, JOE and Jill, are extraordinary human beings who have contributed so much. It is not necessarily easy to be in public service as long as the Vice

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



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