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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, April 11, 2016, at 3:30 p.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2016

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. 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.

Almighty God, we are safe with You. Give our lawmakers the wisdom to put their entire trust in You. Help them to remember Your promise to guide their steps on the right path. Lord, fill them with courage so that they will stand for right in every circumstance. When they experience setbacks, may they rest in the victory of Your love. Help them to experience the length, breadth, and height of Your sovereign grace.

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.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I was glad to see Senators in both par-

ties vote to advance the FAA Reauthorization Act yesterday. We will now continue our work to pass this bipartisan legislation that will support American jobs. It will also enhance safety and security measures to help protect travelers in our airports and in the skies. It will look out for consumers' interests by providing more information on things such as seat availability and baggage fees. It will maintain rural access and promote American manufacturing as well. That is what the FAA bill before us will do. Here is what it won't do: It won't raise taxes or fees on airline passengers or enact heavyhanded regulations that could diminish choices or services for travelers.

I appreciate the diligent work of Chairman THUNE and Senator AYOTTE, the chair of the committee's aviation panel, as well as that of their Democratic counterparts, Senators NELSON and CANTWELL.

The FAA Reauthorization Act has been a bipartisan effort from the very start. Let's keep working together in the same spirit today. I urge colleagues to work with the bill managers to process amendments, if they have them.

FILLING THE SUPREME COURT VACANCY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, President Obama will fly to Chicago, where he will try to convince Americans that, despite his own actions while in the Senate to deny a Supreme Court nominee a vote, the Constitution somehow now requires the Senate to have a vote on his nominee no matter

what, and thereby deny the American people a voice in the future of the Supreme Court. In the words of the Washington Post's Fact Checker, he will be "telling supporters a politically convenient fairy tale." That is the Washington Post. I am sure he will gloss over the fact that the decision about filling this pivotal seat could impact our country for decades, that it could dramatically affect the most cherished constitutional rights, such as those contained in the First and Second Amendments. I am sure he will continue to demand that Washington spend its time fighting on one issue where we don't agree rather than working together on issues where we do. I am sure he will spend some time refuting the words of his own Vice President. I am sure he will repeatedly claim that his nominee is "moderate"—not that he means it; it is just a useful piece of spin that has been dutifully echoed across the spans of the left and in the media for years.

Consider the recent Democratic Supreme Court nominees. One Washington Post columnist hailed the "moderate" record of President Obama's first pick to the Supreme Court. One New York newspaper proclaimed his second nominee a "pragmatic centrist." When President Clinton made his Supreme Court nominations, the Post declared one a—you guessed it—"moderate," and the New York Times practically fell all over itself exalting the "resolutely centrist" style of the other. That last nominee—who said it would be a good idea to abolish Mother's Day, by the way—was not just firmly centrist, not

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



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