The Senate met at noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER
The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:
Let us pray.
Almighty God, You are our shelter from the storm. Keep us from shame.
Lord, You often answer prayers in mysterious ways. As the Beavens are higher than the Earth, so are Your thoughts higher than our contemplation.
Inspire our Senators to be so sensitive to Your Spirit that they can recognize Your gentle nudge. Make them glad that You are near.
Lord, equip our lawmakers with wisdom and foresight for these challenging times. May Your peace go with them as they seek to do Your will.
We pray in Your strong 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 PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION
Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, it is nice to see you back in that position.
Yesterday, Mr. President, we began a new chapter in the history of our Nation. On the same steps stormed by domestic terrorists 2 weeks ago, we held a ceremony to the enduring power of our democracy. It was a symbol to the world that America is back and a message to those domestic terrorists that they will never prevail.

Even as the festivities were in full swing, our new President and this new Senate commenced the work of rebuilding our country and healing its wounds. With the stroke of a pen, President Biden started the process of rejoining the United States to the Paris accords. He extended the pause on student loan payments, put an end to the Muslim travel ban, reinstalled safeguards for our Nation’s Dreamers, and put a halt on the ineffective border wall.

Crucially, President Biden signed a number of orders to refocus the Federal Government’s efforts on fighting the coronavirus pandemic. The United States has rejoined the World Health Organization. A mask mandate has been issued for all Federal properties. And President Biden has named a new coronavirus response coordinator to manage vaccine distribution, which is so desperately needed and was such a failure under the Trump administration.

Our country has suffered deeply from the chaotic, lackluster, and incompetent Federal response to COVID–19. As we cross the grim milestone of 400,000–400,000 American fatalities from COVID, the Biden administration is wasting no time in marshaling the resources of the Federal Government into action and today released a national strategy to defeat the pandemic.

What a concept—a President who actually takes the defining crisis of our time seriously. What a change—and how great is the need.

Here in the Senate, the first order of business is to fulfill our constitutional duty to advise and consent on the President’s appointments to his Cabinet. Last night, the Senate confirmed the President’s selection for the Director of National Intelligence, Avril Haines. We appreciate the bipartisan cooperation to get her confirmation done yesterday, and we should continue in that spirit today.

Traditionally, the Senate has confirmed several national security nominees for an incoming administration during their first few days. Even as power changes hands from one administration to the other, the work of keeping our Nation safe must not be paused or be disrupted. Foreign adversaries will seek to exploit this period of transition, and we cannot allow America’s military, intelligence, and national security policy to be disrupted by staffing delays.

In 2017, President Trump had his Defense Secretary and Secretary of Homeland Security in place on Inauguration Day. President Biden deserves his national security team in place as soon as possible, as well as key officials in charge of responding to the current health and economic crises. With the cooperation of our Republican colleagues, we can and should confirm the Secretaries of Defense, State, Homeland Security, and Treasury without much delay.

While national security is paramount, I would remind my colleagues that we are in the middle of an economic crisis. The sooner we confirm a Federal response coordinator to manage vaccine distribution, which is so desperately needed and was such a failure under the Trump administration.

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Inaugural Ceremony
Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Inaugural Ceremony proceedings be printed in the Record.
There being no objection, the proceedings of the Inaugural Ceremony were ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

Inaugural Ceremony
Inauguration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., January 20, 2021, 10:33 a.m.
The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Mark A. Milley, assembled on the President’s platform.

Leadership of the United States Senate: President pro tempore emeritus, the Honorable Stephen Scalise; and majority whip, the Honorable James E. Clyburn, assembled on the President’s platform.

Leadership of the United States House: President pro tempore, the Honorable David P. Mc一瓶, Majority Leader, the Honorable Steve Scalise, Majority Whip, the Honorable Liz Cheney; and Deputy Whip, the Honorable Emhoff, assembled on the President’s platform.

Former Vice President, the Honorable Dan Quayle, assembled on the President’s platform.

The 42nd President of the United States, the Honorable William J. Clinton, and the Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton assembled on the President’s platform.

The 41st President of the United States, the Honorable George W. Bush, and Mrs. Laura Bush assembled on the President’s platform.

The 40th President of the United States, the Honorable Barack Obama, and Mrs. Michelle Obama assembled on the President’s platform.

The Chief Justice of the United States, the Honorable John Roberts, Jr., and the Associate Justices of the Supreme Court assembled on the President’s platform.

The children of Vice President-Elect Harris and Mr. Douglas Emhoff, Cole Mackin Emhoff and EllaRose Emhoff, assembled on the President’s platform.

The children of President-Elect Biden, Hunter Biden II and Ashley Blazer Biden and the grandchildren of the President-elect, assembled on the President’s platform.

Accompanying the Vice President: The Secretary of the Senate, the Honorable Julie Adams; and Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives, Catherine Spindor, assembled on the President’s platform.

The Vice President of the United States, the Honorable Michael R. Pence, and Mrs. Karen Pence assembled on the President’s platform.

Accompanying the Vice President-elect: the Chief of Inaugural Ceremonies, Maria Miller Lohmeyer; the Acting Deputy House Sergeant at Arms, Kevin Grubes; and the Acting Deputy Senate Sergeant at Arms, U.S. Capitol Police Officer, PFC Eugene O. Goodman, assembled on the President’s platform.

The Vice President-elect of the United States, Kamala Devi Harris, and Mr. Douglas Emhoff assembled on the President’s platform.

The Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies: staff representative Alexander Gourdin Dionicio, accompanying the House Republican leader, the Honorable Kevin McCarthy; staff representative Bridget Brennan, accompanying House majority leader, the Honorable Steny Hoyer, and Ms. Yvette Lewis; staff representative Kate Knudsen, accompanying Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, and Mr. Paul Pelosi; staff representative Lindsey Kerr, accompanying the Honorable Amy Klobuchar and Mr. John Bessler; staff representative Stefanie Hagar Muchow, accompanying Senate majority leader, the Honorable Mitch McConnell, and staff representative the Honorable Elaine L. Chao; and staff representative Rachelle Graves Schroeder, accompanying the chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, the Honorable Roy Blunt, and Mrs. Abigail Blunt, assembled on the President’s platform.

Accompanying the President-elect, the staff director of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, Fitzhugh V. Edsall IV, and staff representative See Sergeant at Arms, Tim Blodgett; and the Acting Senate Sergeant at Arms, Jennifer Hemingway, assembled on the President’s platform.

The President-elect of the United States, Joseph R. Biden, Jr., and Dr. Jill Biden assembled on the President’s platform.

MS. KLOBUCHAR. Vice President Pence, Mr. President-elect, Madam Vice President-elect, Members of Congress and the judicial branch, former Presidents and First Ladies, Vice Presidents, leaders from abroad, and a whole bunch of Bidens, America, welcome to the 59th Presidential Inauguration, where in just a few moments Joe Biden and Kamala Harris will take their solemn oaths.

This ceremony is the culmination of 244 years of a democracy. It is a moment when the leader of our country, will of the people, promise to be faithful to our Constitution, to cherish it, and defend it. It is a moment when they become, as we all should be, guardians of our country.

Have we become too jaded, too accustomed to the ritual of the passing of the torch of democracy to truly appreciate what a blessing and a privilege it is to witness this moment? I think not.

Two weeks ago, when an angry, violent mob staged an insurrection and desecrated this temple of democracy, it awakened us to our responsibilities as Americans. This is the day when our democracy picks itself up, and does what America always does: It goes forward as a nation, under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

This conveyance of a sacred trust between our leaders and our people takes place in front of this shining Capitol dome for a reason. When Abraham Lincoln gave his first inaugural address in front of this Capitol, the dome was only partially constructed, braced by ropes of steel. He promised he would finish it. The government was on it during the Civil War. To those critics, he replied, “If the people see the Capitol going on, it is a sign we intend the Union shall go on and the government will.”

Generations of Americans gave their lives to preserve our Republic in this place. Great legislation to protect civil rights and economic security and lead the world was debated and crafted under this dome. Now, it falls on all of us—not just the two leaders we are inaugurating today—to take up the torch of our democracy. We are always working to be better than we are. We promise and set an example for others if we haven’t done that. The Magna Carta hadn’t done that. Only the Constitution says the government exists because the people are the source of the reason it is.

They immediately followed those first three words with the words “to form a more perfect union.” The Founders did not say to form a perfect union; they did not claim that in our new country nothing would need to be improved. Fortunately, they understood that always working to better would be the hallmark of our democracy.

The freedoms we have today and the Nation we have today is not here just because it happened, and they aren’t complete. A great democracy is both fragile and resilient. It is both fragile and resilient. It is not a perfect union. We are not a perfect union. We are a work in progress. It is not the fault of the people who are the source of the reason it is. We are a work in progress. We are a work in progress.

The freedoms we have today and the Nation we have today is not here just because it happened, and they aren’t complete. A great democracy is both fragile and resilient. It is not a perfect union. We are a work in progress.

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and will watch what we do here. Our government comes together. The Congress and the courts join the transition of Executive responsibility. One political party is more pleased today and on every inaugural day than the other. But this is not a moment of division; it is a moment of unification. A new administration begins and brings with it a new promise, one that, our great national debate goes forward, and a determined democracy will continue to be essential in a pursuit of a more perfect union and a better future for all Americans. What a privilege for me to join you today.

Thank you.

Mr. KLOBUCHAR. What you are all about to be part of, America, is a historic moment of firsts.

To administer the oath to our first African-American, and our first woman Vice President, Kamala Harris, it is my great privilege to welcome to the inaugural stage the first Latina to ever serve in the United States of America: Justice Sonia Sotomayor. The Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Puerto Rico, administered to the Vice President-elect the oath of office prescribed by the Constitution, which she repeated as follows:

I, KAMALA DEVI HARRIS, do solemnly swear that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I will take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of my office to which I am about to enter. So help me God.

(Appause.)

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Well, that was great.

The Sun is shining and, Mr. President—

(Appause.)

I, JOSEPH ROBINETTE BIDEN, Jr., do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States. So help me God.

The CHIEF JUSTICE. Congratulations, Mr. President.

(Appause.)

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. My fellow Americans—a moment we have all been waiting for—it is now my great privilege and high honor to be the first person to officially introduce the 46th President of the United States, Joseph R. Biden.

(Appause.)

The President, Chief Justice Roberts, Vice President Harris, Speaker Pelosi, Lead. Schacht, Speaker McConnell, Vice Presi-

dent Pence, and my distinguished guests, my fellow Americans, this is America’s day. This is democracy’s day—a day of history and hope, of renewal and resolve.

Through a crucible for the ages, America has been tested anew, and America has risen to the challenge. Today, we celebrate the triumph not of a candidate but of a cause, the cause of democracy. The people—the will of the people—has been heard, and the will of the people has been heeded.

We have learned that democracy is precious, democracy is fragile, and at this hour, my friends, democracy has prevailed.

(Appause.)

Now, on a hallowed ground, where just a few days ago violence sought to shake the Capitol’s very foundation, we come together as one Nation under God, indivisible, to carry out the peaceful transfer of power as we have for more than two centuries.

As we look ahead in our uniquely American post-pandemic, post-revelation nation, we need to ask ourselves what is the path forward? We have set our sights on a nation we know we can and we must be, I thank my predecessors of both parties for their presence here today. I thank them for the bottom of my heart.

(Appause.)

I know the resilience of our Constitution and the strength—the strength of our Na-

tion—and does President Carter, who I spoke with last night, who cannot be with us today, but whom we salute for his lifetime in service.

I have just taken the sacred oath each of those patriots have taken, the oath first sworn by George Washington. But the American story depends not on any one of us, not on one of us, not on some of us, but on all of us—on we, the people, who seek a more perfect union. This is a great nation. We are good people. Over the centuries, through storm and strife, in peace and at war, we have come so far, but we still have far to go.

We will press forward with speed and urgency, and we have the will to make this great nation of ours a center of light, a beacon to the world, a source of hope for all who call upon us, a shield for all who trust in us, a source of strength to those who will build, and a safe haven for those who are tired from political polarization and from the election of a president who, with a margin of four hundred eighty-nine votes in the electoral college.

I know the resilience of our Constitution and the strength—the strength of our Na-

tion—and does President Carter, who I spoke with last night, who cannot be with us today, but whom we salute for his lifetime in service.

Now, on a hallowed ground, where just a few days ago violence sought to shake the Capitol’s very foundation, we come together as one Nation under God, indivisible, to carry out the peaceful transfer of power as we have for more than two centuries.
that racism, nativism, fear, and demonization have long torn us apart. The battle is perennial, and victory is never assured.

Through Civil War, the Great Depression, World War II, and through struggle, sacrifice, and setbacks, our better angels have always prevailed. In each of these moments, enough of us—enough of us—have come together to carry all of us forward, and we can do that now.

History, faith, and reason show the way, the way of unity. We can see each other not as adversaries, but as neighbors. We can treat each other with dignity and respect. We can join forces, stop the shouting, and lower the temperature. For without unity there is no peace, only bitterness and envy; no progress, only exhausting outrage; and no nation, only a state of chaos. This is our historic moment of crisis and challenge, and unity is the path forward, and we must meet this moment as the United States of America.

If we do that, I guarantee you we will not fail. We have never, ever, ever failed in America when we have acted together. So, today, at this time, in this place, let’s start afresh—all of us. Let’s begin to listen to one another again, hear one another, see one another, and show respect to one another. Politics doesn’t have to be a raging fire destroying everything in its path. Every moment doesn’t have to be a cause for total war, and we must reject the culture in which facts themselves are manipulated and even manufactured.

(Applause.)

My fellow Americans, we have to be different than this. America has to be better than this, and I believe America is so much better than this. Just look around. Here we stand in the shadow of the Capitol dome, as was mentioned earlier, completed amid the Civil War, itself a war, suspended in space, hanging in the balance; yet we endured. We prevailed.

Here we stand, looking out on the great Mall where Dr. King spoke of his dream. Here we stand, where 100 years ago, at another inaugural, thousands of protesters tried to block brave women marching for the right to vote. Today, we mark the swearing in of the first woman in American history elected to national office, Vice President Kamala Harris. Don’t tell me things can’t change.

(Applause.)

Here we stand, across the Potomac from Arlington Cemetery, where heroes who gave their lives and those left behind and for our country.

Madam Vice President, Mr. Emhoff, Americans view the future with fear and trepidation. I understand they worry about their jobs. I understand, like my dad, they lay in bed at night staring at the ceiling, wondering: Can I keep my healthcare? Can I pay my mortgage? Thinking about their families and about what comes next. I promise you, I get it.

But the answer is not to turn inward and to retreat into competing factions, distrust those who don’t look like you or worship the way you do or don’t get the same news from the same sources you do. We must end this uncivil war that pits red against blue, rural versus urban, conservative versus liberal. We must reject the language of one side versus the other. Instead of hardening our hearts, if we show a little tolerance and humility, and if we are willing to stand in the other person’s shoes, as my mom used to say. Just for a moment, stand in their shoes. Because here is the thing about life: There is no accounting for what fate will deal you. Some days, you need a hand. There are other days when we are called to lend a hand. That is how it has to be. That is what we do for one another. If we are this way, our country will be stronger, more prosperous, more inclusive. If we are this way, our country is how it has to be. That is what we do for each other.

(Applause.)

My fellow Americans, in the work ahead of us, we are going to need each other. We need all our strength to persevere through this dark winter. We are entering what may be the toughest and deadliest period of the virus. We must set aside politics and finally face this pandemic as one Nation—one Nation. (Applause.)

And I promise you this, as the Bible says: “Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.” We will get through this together. We will. (Applause.)

Look, folks, all my colleagues I serve with in the House and the Senate up here, we all understand the world is watching, watching all of us today. So here is my message to those beyond our borders: America has been tested, and we have come out stronger for it. We will lead once again with the world once again—not to meet yesterday’s challenges but today’s and tomorrow’s challenges—and we will lead not merely by the example of our power but by the power of our example.

(Applause.)

We will be a strong and trusted partner for peace, progress, and security. Look, you all know we have been through so much in this Nation. In my first act as President, I would like to ask you to join me in a moment of silent prayer. Remember all those who we lost in this past year to the pandemic, those 400,000 fellow Americans—moments, husbands, wives, sons, daughters, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. We will honor them by becoming the people and the Nation we know we can and should be. I ask you to say a silent prayer for those who have lost their lives and those left behind and for our country.

(Moment of silence.)

Amen.

Folks, this is a time of testing. We face an attack on our democracy and on truth, a rage against growing inequality, systemic racism, a crisis in climate, and America’s role in the world. Any one of these would be enough to challenge us in profound ways, but the fact is all at once, presenting this Nation with one of the gravest responsibilities we have had.

Now, we are going to lead. Are we going to step up, all of us? It is time for boldness, for there is so much to do. And this is certain: I promise you, we will be judged by how we are guiding crises of our era. Will we rise to the occasion? Will we master this rare and difficult hour? Will we meet our obligations to each other and to the next generation? A new America, a better America is coming. It begins with us. It begins with you. And it begins with today.

Let us add our own work and prayers to the unfolding story of our great Nation. If we do this, then when our days are through, our children and our children’s children will say of us: They gave their best, they did their duty, they healed a broken land.

Fellow Americans, I close today where I began, with a sacred oath. Before God and all of you, I give you my word. I will always level with you. I will defend the Constitution. I will defend our democracy. I will defend America, and I will give all—all of you—keep everything I do in your service, thinking not of power but of possibilities, not of personal interest but of public good. And together, we shall write an American story of hope, not fear; of unity, not division; of light, not darkness; a story of decency and dignity, love and charity, goodness—may this be the story that guides us, the story that inspires us, and the story that tells ages yet to come that we answered the test of our time. We are Americans, lovers of liberty, dignity, respect, honor, and, yes, the truth.

Mr. BLUNT. It is hard not to be reminded by Garth Brooks performing “Amazing Grace.”

Mr. BLUNT. It is hard not to be reminded of President Obama singing that same song at the Mother Emanuel Church, a song that in our country is as close to both poetry and prayer as you could possibly come, and we are going to finish with those two things.

Now, let us introduce Ambassador Estelle Morris, our Nation’s first ever National Youth Poet Laureate.

Mr. GORMAN. Mr. President, Mr. President, Mr. Emhoff, Madam Vice President, Mr. Emhoff, America, and the world:

When day comes we ask ourselves,
where can we find light in this never-ending shade?

The loss we carry, a sea we must wade

We’ve breasted the belly of the beast

We’ve learned that quiet isn’t always peace

And the norms and notions of what just is

Isn’t always just-ice

And yet the dawn is ours before we knew it

How we do it

Somehow we’ve weathered and witnessed a nation that isn’t broken but simply unfinished

We the successors of a country and a time Where a skinny Black girl descended from slaves and raised by a single mother
can dream of becoming president only to find herself reciting for one And yes we are far from polished far from pristine

but that doesn’t mean we are striving to form a union that is perfect We are striving to forge a union with purpose To compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and conditions of man

And so we lift our gaze not to what stands between us but what stands before us

We close the divide because we know, to put our future first we must first put our differences aside

We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another

We seek harm to none and harmony for all

but what stands before us We close the divide because we know, to put our future first we must first put our differences aside

To one another

We seek harm to none and harmony for all

as we lift our gaze not to what stands between us but what stands before us

We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another

We seek harm to none and harmony for all

as we lift our gaze not to what stands between us but what stands before us

We lay down our arms so we can reach out our arms to one another

We seek harm to none and harmony for all

but what stands before us

We lay our arms down and we can reach out to our arms to one another

We seek harm to none and harmony for all

that everyone shall sit under their own vine and fig tree

And no one shall make them afraid If we’re to live up to our own time

Then victory won’t lie in the blade But in all the bridges we’ve made

That is the promise to glide

The hurt we bumb

If only we dare

It’s because being American is more than a pride we inherit, it’s the past we step into and how we repair it

We’ve seen a force that would shatter our nation rather than share it

Would destroy our country if it meant delaying democracy

And this effort very nearly succeeded But democracy can be periodically delayed it can never be permanently defeated

In this truth in this faith we trust

For while we have our eyes on the future history has its eyes on us

This is the era of just redemption

We feared at its inception

We did not feel prepared to be the heirs of such a terrifying hour but within it we found the power to author a new chapter

To offer hope and laughter to ourselves So while once we asked how could we possibly prevail over catastrophes Now we assert How could catastrophe possibly prevail over us?

We will not march back to what was but move to what shall be

A country that is bruised but whole, benevolent and bold, fierce and free

We will not be turned around or interrupted by intimidation because we believe in the inheritance and inertia of the next generation

Our blunders become our burdens But one thing is certain: if we merge mercy with might, and might with right, then love becomes our legacy and change our world

So let us leave behind a country better than the one we were left with

Every breath from my bronze-pounded chest, we will raise this wounded world into a wondrous one

We will rise from the gold-limbed hills of the west, we will rise from the windswelled northeast where our forefathers first realized revolution

We will rise from the lake-rimmed cities of the midwestern states, we will rise from the sunbaked south We will rebuild, reconcile and recover and every known nook of our nation and every corner of our world, our people diverse and beautiful will emerge, battered and beautiful

When day comes we step out of the shade, afame and unafraid

The new dawn blooms as we free it For there is always light, if only we’re brave enough to see it if only we’re brave enough to be it.

Mr. BLUNT. Thank you, Amanda Gorman.

Now, for our benediction, I am pleased to introduce the Reverend Dr. Silvester Beaman, pastor of the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Wilmington, DE, a friend of President Biden for 30 years.

Reverend BEAMAN. As a nation and people of faith gathered in this historical moment, let us unite in prayer.

God, we gather under the beauty of Your holiness and the brightness of Your beauty. We seek Your face, Your smile, Your warm embrace.

We petition You once more in this celebration. We do so for divine favor upon our President, Kamala Harris, and our Second Gentleman, Doug Emhoff, and their family.

More than ever—more than ever—they and our Nation need You.

We need You, for in You we discover our common humanity. In our common humanity, we will seek out the wounded and bind their wounds. We will seek healing for those who are sick and diseased. We will mourn our dead. We will befriend the lonely, the least, and the left out.

And further ask that You would extend the same respect, the same real respect, the same sanctity of the presidency, to all of Your people, to all of Your people, and that this is an American presidency.

President, Joseph R. Biden, and our First Lady, Dr. Jill Biden, and their family. We further ask that You would extend the same favor upon our Vice President, Kamala Harris, and our Second Gentleman, Doug Emhoff, and their family.

Mr. SCHUMER. Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). You are welcome.

Mr. SCHUMER. A new politeness from the Chair. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. A new politeness from the Chair. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, for this 117th Congress, the American people chose an evenly split Senate—50 Republicans and 50 Democrats. With the election of Vice President Harris, that means the Democratic leader will act as majority leader.

So I want to congratulate my colleague from New York. His pride and emotion were palpable yesterday as this self-described “kid from Brooklyn [and] son of an exterminator and a housewife” became the first Jewish Member of Congress to lead either Chamber—a historic milestone.