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Senate

The Senate met at 10 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.

Eternal King, You are great and marvelous. You alone are God. Without Your wondrous deeds, our Nation and planet could not survive. You continue to perform wonders on our behalf, rescuing us from ourselves.

Lord, inspire our lawmakers to acknowledge Your sovereignty. Teach them Your precepts so that they may walk in Your truth, experiencing the reverential awe that comes from Your presence. Provide wisdom and knowledge to our legislative leaders, bringing stability to our land.

Sovereign God, Ruler of all nature, You alone will we worship, for You keep us on the path of wisdom.

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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING OFFICER JACOB CHESTNUT AND DETECTIVE JOHN GIBSON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I begin this morning by remembering two heroes and the events that claimed their lives 20 years ago today, right here in the Capitol.

On July 24, 1998, U.S. Capitol Police Officer Jacob Chestnut and Detective John Gibson made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of American democracy. By doing their duty, these heroes helped cut short an act of brutal violence that could have claimed many more lives. That same week, Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson lay in honor in the Capitol Rotunda, and an entire Nation paid its respects.

I imagine 20 years have not made this senseless violence any easier to bear for the families these men left behind or for their brothers and sisters in the Capitol Police. Yet, as we remember their bravery, a triumphant example endures of selfless service and fearless heroism—of two men who embodied the values that keep this building and our Nation standing safe and sound.

Today, we honor Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut. We renew our condolences to their families. We recognize the depth of our gratitude for them and for everyone who puts on the uniform and steps into harm's way every single day.

APPROPRIATIONS PROCESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, now, on an entirely different matter, yesterday, the Senate began considering our next set of appropriations measures for fiscal year 2019.

Chairman SHELBY and Ranking Member LEAHY have led an exemplary bipartisan process through subcommittee and full committee work. Yesterday, that same bipartisan spirit was here on the floor when we were able to proceed to these measures by consent. Let's keep up that productive and coopera-

tive spirit so we can achieve the goal we all share—completing a regular appropriations process and avoiding another omnibus.

The measures before us encompass agriculture, interior and the environment, transportation and housing, and financial services and general government. They would deliver real resources to help American communities face real challenges—challenges like clearing the backlog of infrastructure needs that are holding back rural America and challenges like fighting the opioid epidemic that threatens families and communities.

Among the many, many things this legislation would accomplish, it meets these two challenges head on. It delivers nearly one-half billion dollars in loans and grant funding for rural broadband. It supplies \$400 million to accelerate the delivery of water and waste infrastructure projects across rural America. It would also deliver more assistance to all of the areas of our country that are living under the long shadow of the opioid crisis—tens of millions to help the FDA crack down on the spread of illicit drugs and to improve care in rural communities through distance learning and telemedicine.

These are just a few of the important provisions in these bills. I look forward to considering them this week. I hope we will have a robust amendment process, and then, with bipartisan cooperation, we can take these next steps together.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, on a final matter, yesterday, the White House hosted a "Made in America" showcase, featuring products that were manufactured in each State, including from Stoneware & Co., in my home State, which makes the famous Louisville stoneware kitchen and dining sets.

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



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Well, talking about reviving American manufacturing is nothing new in this town. In his 2013 State of the Union Address, President Obama insisted that “our first priority is making America a magnet for new jobs and manufacturing.”

Every few years, it seemed our Democratic friends over in the House would hold yet another press conference to talk about getting manufacturing moving. So rhetoric was not in short supply during the Obama era. What was harder to come by were actual results. On President Obama's watch, on net, our country lost more than 300,000 manufacturing jobs.

Year after year, Democratic policies led to insufficient, sluggish, and uneven economic growth that left much of the country behind. Eight years of this so-called recovery couldn't even get us back to the same number of manufacturing jobs that we had when President Obama first took his oath of office.

There are a number of reasons why. Yet here is one thing we heard loud and clear from U.S. manufacturers: High taxes, heavy regulations, and other Democratic policies put the wind squarely in their faces. Back in 2013, more than 75 percent of U.S. manufacturers said a hostile climate due to taxes and regulations was a major business obstacle.

What about the present? What about now?

This united Republican government has put an end to one burdensome regulation after another. We cut through the redtape that held back small businesses, local lenders, and manufacturers. We overhauled the Tax Code, leaving families with more to spend and invest and leaving job creators with more flexibility to compete and win.

What were the results?

Less than 2 years into the new administration, an all-time high of 95.1 percent of U.S. manufacturers have a positive outlook. Now fewer than one in five says a hostile business climate due to things like taxes and regulations is a top obstacle, and more than two-thirds are planning to hire this year. These aren't just numbers; this is real life.

At Jamison Door in Hagerstown, MD, tax reform made possible a 400-percent increase in plant size.

In my home State of Kentucky, it is estimated that more than 1,000 construction jobs will be needed to help build a new aluminum rolling mill for Braid Industries. Over the next 7 years, tax reform is expected to save the company—listen to this—\$150 million, which will help to support this investment and the 600 permanent new jobs the company estimates it will create in the Commonwealth.

So let's sum it up. Republican policies have helped generate the very outcomes Democrats claim they wanted. American manufacturing is thriving on our watch, but now Democrats aren't cheering. In fact, they have tried to

block most of the policies that have helped this happen.

They voted against tax reform—every Democrat in the House and the Senate. They have protested regulatory reform every step of the way. They want to go right back to their old ways—repeal the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, raise taxes, and pile on more crushing regulations.

We are not going to let that happen because we agree that manufacturing growth is vital for American prosperity, and unlike our friends across the aisle, we have the ideas and the policies to help make that goal into reality.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING OFFICER JACOB CHESTNUT AND DETECTIVE JOHN GIBSON

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, 20 years ago today, in the late afternoon, shots rang out in this building. A mentally ill individual, armed with a gun, was coming through security when he shot Capitol Police Officer Jacob Chestnut. He then approached the Capitol office of Tom DeLay and engaged Detective John Gibson, and they exchanged gunfire. Detective Gibson and Officer Chestnut lost their lives in the line of duty while protecting this building's occupants and visitors.

There is no way of knowing how many lives they saved in their sacrifice, but their families know that their sacrifice has not been forgotten by all of us here. Their memory is a blessing to their families and to all of us here who remember that awful day.

I join the distinguished Republican leader today in recognizing the anniversary of their passing as a solemn reminder of the everyday heroism practiced by the Capitol Police and their brothers and sisters in blue all across the country.

NOMINATION OF BRETT KAVANAUGH

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the Senate has a constitutional duty to provide advice and consent and a special obligation to thoroughly examine Supreme Court nominations. After all, there are few positions in our government with greater importance or responsibility than a lifetime appointment on the Nation's highest Court. It is now our job to carefully, thoroughly, and methodically review the record of Judge Brett Kavanaugh, and we have quite a job ahead of us.

As a partisan political lawyer during the Clinton and Bush years, Brett Kavanaugh has a paper trail a mile long. There is no doubt the White House and Leader MCCONNELL were

aware of this history when the nomination was made. The length of Judge Kavanaugh's record, however, is no reason to shirk our responsibility as Senators to review it.

Yet the distinguished chairman of the Judiciary Committee has already suggested there is no reason to review Judge Kavanaugh's full record before proceeding with his nomination. Leader MCCONNELL threatened to play political hardball if Democrats insisted on obtaining Judge Kavanaugh's full record. Senate Republicans are making hollow arguments and petty attempts at advancing Judge Kavanaugh's nomination with as little scrutiny as they can manage.

We have been having trouble getting an agreement with Judiciary Committee Chairman GRASSLEY on the scope of the documents the Senate should request. Chairman GRASSLEY has had our request for over a week. It is the same request that was made when Elena Kagan was nominated to the Supreme Court. It is the very same request that Republicans insisted on, including Senator GRASSLEY—he was not chairman then—and Democrats agreed to when we were in charge.

Much like Judge Kavanaugh, Elena Kagan spent time in prior administrations and had a lengthy paper trail, some of which could have been labeled privileged. Did Democrats, in the majority at the time, attempt to rush her nomination through? No. Did we lean on former administrations to declare her documents privileged? No. Democrats actually joined with the Republican minority to request a full and complete accounting of Elena Kagan's record. Her former employer waived all claims of privilege.

Let me show you the letter right here that my friend Senator LEAHY, then chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and Senator Jeff Sessions, then ranking member, sent to the Clinton Library. Here is the letter. What we have done is use the same letter. We are willing to issue the exact same letter, except we have put the address of the person at the Bush Library, changed the name of Kagan to Kavanaugh, and changed the name of Clinton to Bush; otherwise, it is the exact same letter.

How can our Republican colleagues resist this simple letter when it is the exact same letter they pushed for, and we acceded to, when the shoe was on the other foot?

The letter requests the entirety of Elena Kagan's record, not part of it, not a subset of it—all of it. What is good enough for Justice Kagan is good enough for Judge Kavanaugh. You could simply replace her name with Judge Kavanaugh's name throughout this letter, and the letter would be exactly applicable today. This is the standard Democrats and Republicans used to agree on, the Kagan standard—and it wasn't just Senators LEAHY and Sessions.

At the time, Senator GRASSLEY, now chairman—the burden is on him to help