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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, our righteousness, as each new day seems to bring the unexpected, we thank You for Your power that keeps us from stumbling on life's road.

Today, give our lawmakers the wisdom to find in You their refuge and strength. Lord, as they face complex challenges, may they plead to You for guidance and fellowship. Remind them that in the multitude of counselors, there is safety. May our Senators plant seeds of righteousness in order to reap our harvest of goodness and grace. May they make You the foundation of their hope and joy, as You empower them to meet every trial without weariness.

Lord, have mercy upon the loved ones of Rayshard Brooks and the many others who are buffeted by the winds of despair.

We pray in Your sovereign 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAWLEY.) The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 1 minute in morning business.

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

WORLD FOOD PRIZE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, this time of year for the last roughly 30

years, the World Food Prize has announced a laureate. The laureate announced this year is Dr. Rattan Lal. He will receive the prize for his work on soil health at the annual ceremony that has taken place in Des Moines for the last 30 years in October.

Often called the Nobel Prize for Agriculture, the World Food Prize is awarded for exceptional achievements that advance human development by increasing the quantity, quality, availability of, or access to food. The award was created by Iowan Dr. Norman Borlaug, who is credited with saving more lives than any other person who ever lived through his pioneering work in developing new, more productive plant varieties and particularly plant varieties free of disease. The Green Revolution sparked by Dr. Borlaug made it possible for India to feed its people.

Dr. Lal, also from India, is being recognized for his work, which will be of interest to Iowans and others around the world. Dr. Lal said:

Achieving hunger-free humanity, soil degradation neutrality, negative emission farming, and pollutant-free water are among principal challenges which can never be ignored. . . . Sustainable management of soil and agriculture is also essential to keeping global temperatures within the safe range and restoring the environment.

If people want to know who Dr. Borlaug is, he is one of the two statues that Iowa has put in Statuary Hall. He is one of five people in our country who have received a Nobel Peace Prize, the Congressional Gold Medal, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 3 months ago, States were implementing

stay-at-home orders as the coronavirus spread throughout our country. Three months ago, George Floyd was still alive, and the killing of Breonna Taylor in Louisville had just begun to reignite a national discussion around policing.

Our country has confronted what feels like several years' worth of upheaval in just 3 months. Small businesses and childcare centers are trying to figure out how to safely reopen. Schools and universities are trying to plan for the fall. Healthcare professionals and essential workers are continuing to man their posts, help strangers, and keep our country going. Peaceful protesters have continued to express outrage over the killings of Black Americans, and our Nation's police officers—overwhelmingly good, decent, and brave people who put everything on the line for their neighbors—have continued to faithfully serve under trying circumstances.

These are the kinds of challenges our Nation should meet with unity, like when the Senate wrote and passed the historic CARES Act unanimously in March. But unfortunately, in some corners of the country, our Nation's strategic reserve of sanity appears to have run a little low. We have seen peaceful protests hijacked by violent riots. Apparently, rioters thought the best way to argue against a strong police force was to terrorize innocent people and small businesses for nights on end.

Then, completing the absurd cycle, we have seen the far left hold up these riots as proof that we should defund or disband the police in this country—as though the vast majority of Americans in the country would not interpret the anarchy in precisely the opposite way.

As I noted last week, we have seen some big-city mayors use health restrictions to construct constitutionally dubious double standards, where massive protests are blessed and encouraged, but small, careful church services are still banned. In Seattle, we have

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seen the local officials cede several blocks to a rag-tag band of demonstrators who call themselves the Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone. Fear of the far left has literally caused local officials to let a chunk of their own city devolve into a no-go zone for their own cops.

Naturally, left-leaning media outlets have been quick to shower praise on this legacy and slow to amplify reports of arson and other unchecked crimes. One story from the New York Times praised the “liberated streets”—liberated, as if spray-painting a boarded-up business were the equivalent of the Normandy landings.

Amid all this, our Democratic counterparts in the House of Representatives have mostly continued to keep their doors locked and their lights off. But here in the Senate, we came back in over a month ago. We have taken smart precautions, but we have not let the people's business come to a halt.

Our committees have been overseeing the CARES Act and working on other essential business, like the National Defense Authorization Act.

Our colleagues are considering what else might help the country reopen, like strong legal protections for schools, colleges, employers, and healthcare workers.

Under the leadership of Senator TIM SCOTT, our conference is developing a serious proposal to reform law enforcement in smart ways without lashing out needlessly and counterproductively at the first responders who are a credit to their communities.

GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOORS ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, just this week, on the floor, we will complete a major piece of legislation that will benefit generations to come. Thanks to a number of our colleagues—particularly the junior Senators from Colorado and Montana—the Senate is poised to take historic action for the future of the Nation's public lands.

I haven't been the only one coming to the floor to highlight how my constituents prize our State's national parks, wildlife refuge, and other managed areas—for recreation and for many livelihoods. We Kentuckians are proud that our Commonwealth is home to one of the National Park Service's crowning jewels at Mammoth Cave. We are proud of our historic sites like Mill Springs Battlefield and our wildlife refuges at the Clarks and Green Rivers. And I am proud that the Senate this week will provide permanent, steady support to maintain these treasures for generations to come.

As we have heard, the same is true for Colorado, where entire regional economies are driven by outdoor recreation in alpine wonderlands; for Montana, where Federal and State management work hand in hand with local sportsmen and Native American Tribes to preserve millions of acres of pristine, Big Sky wilderness; for West Virginia, where 54 of 55 counties have ben-

efited from the Land and Water Conservation Fund investment; and for Ohio, where the Cuyahoga Valley puts parkland in the backyards of millions of people. The list goes on and on.

Public lands hold a unique place in the life of every State in America—from their natural beauty, to their use for recreation, to their pivotal roles in local economies. In the communities just outside of the gates, public lands drive over \$40 billion in economic activity every year, and they play a big part in the entire outdoor recreation industry that creates hundreds of billions of dollars in national prosperity every year.

Once again, I am grateful to our colleagues who have stewarded the Great American Outdoors Act thus far; to Senator GARDNER and Senator DAINES for their leadership; and to Senators ALEXANDER, PORTMAN, MANCHIN, and WARNER for their efforts as well to steer this strong, bipartisan product toward the finish line. I look forward to continuing to advance this legislation today and passing it this week.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

TAXPAYER FIRST ACT OF 2019— Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1957, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1957) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modernize and improve the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell (for Gardner) amendment No. 1617, in the nature of a substitute.

McConnell amendment No. 1626 (to amendment No. 1617), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 1627 (to amendment No. 1626), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell Amendment No. 1628 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 1617), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 1629 (to amendment No. 1628), of a perfecting nature.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

BOSTOCK V. CLAYTON COUNTY, GEORGIA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this morning, the long march for equality for LGBTQ Americans took a step forward. The Supreme Court handed down a landmark decision that Federal employment discrimination protections do, in fact, extend to LGBTQ Americans. Believe it or not, before today, it was not a settled legal matter that you could sue your employer for firing you solely on the basis of sexual orientation or sexual identity.

In 2020, in America, it was still OK to discriminate against people because of their sexual orientation or identity. Is that unbelievable that in the 21st century it was still allowed? Well, now it isn't because of the Supreme Court, and they deserve credit for that case.

One of the cases that formed the basis of today's ruling originated in my home State of New York, where a sky-diving instructor was fired for admitting his sexual orientation. So, today, the Supreme Court did the right thing and ruled that workplace discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is just as unlawful as discrimination on the basis of gender, race, or religion.

Of course, the ruling in no way diminishes our efforts here in Congress to pass the Equality Act led by my colleagues, Senators MERKLEY, BALDWIN, and BOOKER, which would be a great leap forward on equality that we are all looking for. It passed the House over a year ago, but it has been gathering dust in Leader MCCONNELL's legislative graveyard. Senate Republicans are still not in the 21st century. They must think it is OK to discriminate against people because of their orientation or identity. Unbelievable. But maybe now, the fact that even a few Justices appointed by Republican Presidents believe that it was against the law—maybe that will prick the hearts of our Republican colleagues and Leader MCCONNELL and they will allow a vote on the Equality Act here on the floor. Even without the Senate and its backward ways, it is clear that the country is moving in the right direction.

JUSTICE IN POLICING ACT

Mr. President, these are not ordinary times in America. For 21 straight days, hundreds of thousands of Americans have taken to the streets to protest police violence and racial injustice. Clashes between police and peaceful protesters over the past few weeks, in which some police departments have responded with overly aggressive tactics, have only articulated further the need for bold and wide-reaching reform of police practices.

Being killed by police is now the sixth leading cause of death for young Black men in America. Let me repeat that. Being killed by police is now the sixth leading cause of death for young Black men in America, and that is why the House and Senate have drafted legislation, the Justice in Policing Act,