



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 166

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JULY 27, 2020

No. 132

Senate

The Senate met at 4 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.

Eternal Lord God, we again thank You for the life and legacy of Representative John Robert Lewis.

Lord, accept our gratitude for his ethical congruence that motivated him to find a moral way to get in the way. We are grateful that his passion for freedom summoned our Nation to embrace our best hopes and not our worst fears. Inspired by his exemplary pilgrimage, may our lawmakers strive to live with such integrity that they will stand on the right side of history.

Lord, help our Senators to strive to see You more clearly, to love You more dearly, and to follow You more nearly day by day.

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 (Ms. ERNST). The Senator from Iowa.

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

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

FILIBUSTER

Mr. GRASSLEY. Former Vice President Biden and Minority Leader SCHUMER have indicated a willingness to end the so-called filibuster if Democrats gain a majority in the U.S. Senate after this year's election.

Meanwhile, Democrats used the same rule to prevent even taking up Senator SCOTT's very thoughtful police reform legislation. The rule in question is the cloture rule, which brings debate and amendments to a close so we can get to the finality of a bill. What Democrats blocked was ending debate on proceeding to police reform and starting to consider any amendments that wanted to be offered, but it would have taken yet another cloture vote to get to final passage.

The cloture rule ensures that no police reform bill could be passed by the U.S. Senate unless at least 60 Senators were satisfied with the outcome of the amendment process. In other words, it guarantees that the concerns of the minority party—whether that be Republican or Democrat—would have to be addressed. There was no excuse for preventing the Senate from even beginning the legislative process on this extremely important and timely issue of police reform.

There is also no excuse for Democrats who claimed to oppose the 60-vote requirement to cut off debate on principle when they were last in the majority, who then immediately began using cloture to block bills that had majority support when they lost their majority, and who still continue to use cloture to block progress on important issues today, but who now fully admit that they will change the Senate institution—the protection for the minority—if it suits their partisan purpose in the future.

I yield the floor.

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. Madam 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 MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

REMEMBERING JOHN LEWIS

Mr. McCONNELL. Today, as we speak, the U.S. Congress confers a rare and high honor on a national hero who richly deserves it. Our distinguished late colleague, Congressman John Lewis, is lying in state in the Rotunda.

I had the honor to speak at this afternoon's ceremony—how amazing to reflect on John's incredible American life. It began deep in the segregated South, ran through lunch counters in Nashville, jail cells in Mississippi, across the Edmund Pettus Bridge, up the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, and brought him to the halls of Congress.

He made heroic contributions to our Nation's march toward racial justice. He also brought an unforgettable example of moral urgency, respect, and love to Washington that left an impact on everyone he met. His example will be missed here in the Capitol. He will be remembered forever by a grateful Nation because, as far as I am concerned, it is not really the rest of us in Congress who are conveying an honor upon John Lewis today, not this time. Rather, it is John who is bringing greater honor to us, to this Capitol, with his presence, one final time.

HEALS ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, COVID-19 has killed nearly 150,000 Americans. It has caused massive layoffs on a historic scale and left 17 million people out of work. It has thrown the lives and the trajectories of our Nation's children and young adults into uncertainty.

Our Nation stands now at an important crossroads in this battle. American families' historic sacrifices brought our medical system through

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



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the springtime intact. The very early stages of our economic recovery have been promising and our Nation needs to continue to proceed with a smart and safe reopening.

At the same time, the virus is still with us. It is still spreading, and it does not care about our fragile economic progress or our frustration with restrictions, or anything else, besides infecting as many people as possible.

So we have one foot in the pandemic and one foot in the recovery. The American people need more help. They need it to be comprehensive, and they need it to be carefully tailored to these crossroads.

That is what this Senate majority has assembled, and that is what Chairmen ALEXANDER, BLUNT, COLLINS, GRAHAM, GRASSLEY, RUBIO, and SHELBY, and Senators CORNYN and ROMNEY are introducing today. They will be coming to the floor shortly to introduce their components.

Together, their bills make up the HEALS Act—health, economic assistance, liability protection, and schools—health, economic assistance, liability protection, and schools.

Just like in March, with the CARES Act, Senate Republicans have authored another bold framework to help our Nation. Now we need our Democratic colleagues to reprise their part as well. They need to put aside the partisan stonewalling we saw on police reform and rediscover the spirit of urgency that got the CARES Act across the finish line, and quickly join us around the negotiating table.

It will take bipartisan cooperation to make the HEALS Act into law for the American people. The Senate will not waste time with pointless partisanship. There is a reason why even Speaker PELOSI and Leader SCHUMER themselves have publicly downplayed the multitrillion-dollar socialist manifesto they published a few weeks back and have suggested the real, serious discussion would begin when Republicans released our outline.

We have produced a tailored and targeted draft that will cut right to the heart of three distinct crises facing our country—getting kids back in school, getting workers back to work, and winning the healthcare fight against the virus—kids, jobs, and healthcare.

First, our Nation's kids. Chairmen ALEXANDER, BLUNT, and SHELBY will be introducing a sweeping package to help schools and universities reopen safely. We are talking about more than \$100 billion—more for an education fund than House Democrats put aside in a bill that spent multiple trillions. There are policies to help childcare providers and schools have the flexibility they need to function.

Second, jobs. Since our Nation has one foot in the pandemic and one foot in the recovery, our economic policies have to acknowledge both sides of that coin. Chairman GRASSLEY will introduce another round of direct checks for households at the same amount as be-

fore, with even more support for families who care for vulnerable adult dependents.

Chairmen COLLINS and RUBIO have designed a sequel to their historic PPP to help prevent more layoffs of American workers.

Republicans want to continue a Federal supplement to State unemployment insurance. In fact, we will propose a weekly dollar amount that is eight times what Democrats put in place when they controlled the White House and Congress during the great recession. But we have to do it in a way that does not slow down reopening.

We are also going to help this country pivot into recovery. The American people don't just want relief; they want opportunity so long as the reopenings can be safe. So Chairman GRASSLEY will walk through strong economic incentives to boost worker retention, get Americans rehired, and help small businesses buy the PPE, testing, and supplies that will protect employees and customers alike.

Senator ROMNEY has legislation to help a future Congress ensure our critical national trust funds remain strong.

In looking to our long-term jobs future, there is no question this pandemic has America and our allies reexamining our degree of dependence on China. Chairman GRAHAM is introducing a package of legislation that will incentivize PPE manufacturing right here at home. It will ensure that our efforts to rebuild our national stockpile of protective gear actually benefit American workers instead of just stimulating China, and it will bring a heightened focus to other key concerns, such as high-tech semiconductor manufacturing, critical minerals, and intellectual property theft so that the lessons of this pandemic do not go unlearned.

Finally, healthcare. Chairmen ALEXANDER, GRASSLEY, and others I have already named have legislation to keep America on offense against this virus for diagnostics, treatments, vaccines, hospitals and healthcare workers, and protecting seniors who rely on Medicare from premium spikes. Our legislation supports all of it at continued historic levels.

In tying kids, jobs, and healthcare all together, Senator CORNYN has authored strong legal liability protections so that nurses, doctors, charities, school districts, colleges, and employers can spend their next months actually reopening rather than fighting for their lives against frivolous lawsuits. We will preserve accountability in the event of gross negligence or intentional misconduct, but we are not going to let trial lawyers throw a party on the backs of the frontline workers and institutions that have fought this new enemy on the frontlines.

Health, economic assistance, liability, and schools—another historic package for the next phase of this historic national fight.

To make a law, bipartisan talks need to come next. So there is one big question facing the country right now: Which version of our distinguished Democratic colleagues are the American people about to get? Are we going to get the Democratic Party we got in March, when our colleagues met us in good-faith negotiations and worked with us to turn our framework into a bipartisan product—the Democrats who helped us pass the largest rescue package in American history without one dissenting vote—or will the country get the Democratic Party we saw in June, when our colleagues refused to suggest amendments or improvements to Senator TIM SCOTT's police reform bill and chose to block the issue altogether?

Their actions last month left some observers wondering whether the Democrats had made this cynical choice to give up on bipartisan legislation altogether right through November, whether the Democrats had determined that strengthening our Nation with bipartisan action might hurt their political odds and, therefore, it might suit their fortunes better if pain and chaos simply continued. I hope that is completely off base. I know our Democratic colleagues know this crisis is still urgent. I know they know American families need more help.

I hope this strong proposal will occasion a real response, not partisan cheap shots, not the predictable, tired, old rhetoric as though these were ordinary times and the Nation could afford ordinary politics. We cannot have a Senate minority decide in June it is done legislating until November. The pandemic is not finished. The economic pain is not finished, so Congress cannot be finished either.

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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of William Scott Hardy, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.