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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.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.

Almighty God, we come to You in our weakness and seek Your strength. Our knowledge is insufficient; we seek Your guidance. Our doubts assail us; we seek Your faith. Our fears taunt us; we seek Your courage. Our energy is depleted; we seek Your power. Our emotions betray us; we seek Your discipline. Our temptations conquer us; we seek Your grace. Our lives are too empty; we seek Your joy.

Give our lawmakers this day Your guidance, power, courage, faith, discipline, grace, and joy.

We pray in Your marvelous 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 (Mr. MULLIN). 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 pro-

ceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Dean Sauer, of Missouri, to be Solicitor General of the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, probably all my colleagues are very concerned that we have learned, over the last few months or couple years, that our Department of HHS is not tracking the 300,000 children—unaccompanied children—under our immigration laws. We don't know where they are. And if you are one of these Senators that is concerned about that, I would like to say, this morning, I want to discuss a Department of Homeland Security inspector general report that everyone in the Senate or their staffs ought to be on top of.

Last week's report confirmed alarm bells that my investigative work had been ringing for a decade. The Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement is responsible for placing unaccompanied children with fully vetted U.S. sponsors. And so what we are finding out is that children are being placed in sponsorship that has not been properly vetted.

Hundreds of thousands of children were unaccounted for during the Biden administration. This inspector general report confirmed that the Biden administration's Health and Human Services failed to take necessary steps to protect and find migrant children.

Last Congress, my oversight attacked these failures on behalf of these children. The Biden administration obstructed my oversight. More than that, the Biden administration also ripped up an agreement made during President Trump's first term allowing much more sharing of sponsor information with law enforcement.

The Biden administration worried that the information would show spon-

sors were here illegally. This was the Biden administration's priority over the lives and health of children. To emphasize whether or not sponsors were here illegally was more important than protecting the lives of these children.

So simply put, the last administration's conduct, to include its obstruction of my oversight, is a textbook example of what not to do. So I urge my colleagues, please, read the inspector general's report.

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. 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, there are a lot of topics I wish to discuss today on the Senate floor, including the news from Wisconsin, Donald Trump's tariffs, Republicans' awful attack on the Senate rules, and, of course, the ghastly undercutting by RFK on 9/11 families.

WISCONSIN SUPREME COURT

Mr. President, last night, the people of Wisconsin sent a clear message to Elon Musk, Donald Trump, and DOGE: Democracy is not for sale. There is only one way to interpret what happened last night. It was a political warning shot from the American people. Just 70 days into Trump 2.0, Americans are tired of the chaos. They are tired of Elon Musk attacking Social Security, Medicaid, Medicare.

And I want to be clear about something else. Yesterday was a sign Democrats' message is resonating. When Democrats shine a light on the fact that Republicans are taking vital programs away from the middle class simply to cut taxes for the ultrarich, the

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public doesn't like it. When we shine a light on Republican attacks on Medicaid, on Social Security, on veterans' healthcare simply to cut taxes for the rich, Americans listen, and they are aghast at what they see. That is one of the main reasons that the results in Wisconsin came in as resoundingly as they did.

TARIFFS

Mr. President, on tariffs, today, Donald Trump takes a sledgehammer to the American economy and even to the American dream. With the flick of a pen, Donald Trump is set to unleash the most reckless tsunami of tariffs Americans have seen in over half a century. Prices will rise on virtually every kind of product—produce, medicines, cars, homes, appliances, metals, paper products, beer, lumber, fertilizer, and more.

But is Donald Trump worried? Not even a little bit. In fact, he said the other day he couldn't care less if prices go up. You hear that, America? Life is about to become far more expensive, and Donald Trump, the billionaire who promised to bring down inflation on day one, says he could not care less if you have to pay more.

Maybe tariffs aren't such a bad deal if you are rich like Donald Trump and the people running this MAGA government. They are in such a bubble. To have billionaires and wealthy, wealthy people running the show, which is what has happened in this Trump administration, they are in a bubble.

They don't understand that when tariffs raise the average costs the American family pays by \$5,000, the plans to buy a new car, maybe put a new room on your house, go take a vacation, or fly to see grandma are out the window, and life becomes much tougher.

But these billionaires living in their bubble don't know, don't care, don't give a hoot. For average families, Donald Trump's trade war is a financial gut punch. The average household is going to pay, on average, \$6,000 extra a year. And why is Donald Trump so dead set on starting this ill-conceived trade war? Simply to pay for tax breaks for their billionaires.

They talk about all the money they are going to gain, and what are they using it for? Reducing taxes on the very wealthy. The money they gain out of the pockets of middle-class working families who are paying more for almost everything because of the tariffs goes to pay for tax breaks for billionaires. It is disgraceful.

Fortunately, the Senate has a chance to slow this trade war down today if Republicans join us. Later this afternoon, the Senate will vote on a resolution from Senators KAINE, KLOBUCHAR, and WARNER to undo Donald Trump's emergency declaration with respect to Canada.

I am proud to support this resolution because we should be lowering costs for American families, not sending them skyrocketing like Donald Trump is doing. I know Donald Trump is pushing

my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to vote it down, but my Republican colleagues should tune Donald Trump out. They need to stand up to the President when he is hurting American families so badly. Our Republican colleagues know deep down in their hearts, these tariffs are wrongheaded, harmful, and chaotic. I hope they do the right thing.

TRIBUTE TO CORY BOOKER

Mr. President, just a moment on Senator BOOKER. Yesterday, my good friend Senator CORY BOOKER delivered the longest address in the history of the Senate to lay the case of Republican cruelty for all the American people to see.

And as important as the length of Senator BOOKER's speech was—and it was phenomenal, the stamina, the preparation, the focus he showed by speaking for 25 hours was amazing enough—but just as amazing was what he said. He shined a light on the terrible dangers the Trump administration poses to the country we love.

I thank him for his brilliance, for his moral clarity, for his indistinguishable passion. It was a speech for the ages. It will be long-remembered, not only here in the Senate but throughout America. It was a tour de force like we rarely see here.

Senator BOOKER, I thank you. Our Senate thanks you. But most of all, the American people thank you.

SENATE RULES

Mr. President, on the move by Republicans to go nuclear, America is in crisis, we know that. We can feel it. This week, the crisis seeps even more deeply into the halls of the U.S. Senate by what the Republicans are trying to do.

Senate Republicans are so hell-bent on cutting taxes for billionaires, they are now willing to detonate the rules of the Senate, violate norms and traditions, and break their word—break their word—to get it done.

Republicans are doing something they said they would never do. They are about to go nuclear. Republicans know their so-called “current policy baseline” gimmick won't likely fly. It is hocus-pocus. Even rightwing Republican CHIP ROY called it “fairy dust.” So now they are getting ready to decide for themselves which rules of the Senate to follow and which rules to ignore.

They know that this is so fallacious, so ridiculous, and was ruled against them by the Parliamentarian when Trump was President the first time, that they decided they are going to break the rules, the norms, their word because they are so frenetic—frothing at the mouth, almost—to give tax breaks to their billionaire buddies.

It is a low day for the Senate. By ignoring the Parliamentarian, Republicans are going nuclear. They are trampling all over rules that have governed the Senate for decades in order to give massive tax cuts for their billionaire friends.

Whatever happened to those promises we heard from Republicans, including the Republican leader, that they wouldn't touch the Senate rules? Not 3 months ago, Leader THUNE stood right here on the floor in his first address as Republican leader and said “one of my priorities as leader will be to ensure the Senate stays the Senate.”

Well, that sure isn't happening right now. He has indicated in the past—he has indicated repeatedly, Senator THUNE has—that he would not topple the 60-vote threshold they are now seeking to undo. I guess when it comes to cutting taxes for billionaires, suddenly Republicans don't care much about the Senate rules at all and don't care about breaking their word, what they promised they would do when they came in.

But, frankly, this isn't just a fight about Senate procedure. This is much bigger. This is about Republicans being afraid to tell Americans the truth behind their agenda. Republicans know that if they make Donald Trump's tax cuts permanent through this current policy baseline, they will add \$37 trillion to the debt in the next 30 years—\$37 trillion—about as much as the total debt we have accumulated over the last 240-some-odd years in this Republic. Amazing. Horrible, with horrible consequences.

Our children will be saddled with soaring interest rates and a crippled economy. The ultrarich will become wealthier, and Americans who live paycheck-to-paycheck will suffer more. Republicans know their agenda is deeply unpopular with the American people.

Donald Trump knows it too. That is why he sends out all these smoke-screens every day to try to divert our attention—Greenland, Panama, Gulf of America. He knows it. They all know it. They are just too afraid to have the debate.

They won't come here on the floor and say the vast majority of their tax cuts are for the wealthiest of America. They won't dare say it. But it is true. That is who the Republican paymasters—these rich billionaires who want their taxes cut—that is what they want, and that is what they are doing.

They are afraid to admit they are taking away Medicaid from millions of Americans. I think 70 million Americans benefit from Medicaid. So instead, they go nuclear in a self-serving effort to hide the truth and use phony accounting, fake math, which will hurt us.

They are increasing the deficit by a lot no matter what paper they try to slide before us. They try to hide the cost of their billionaire tax cuts. It is not going to work. As in Wisconsin, across America, the American people will see right through it.

WORLD TRADE CENTER HEALTH PROGRAM

Mr. President, another thing that is just infuriating is what they are doing to the 9/11 families.

Donald Trump's assault on the American people takes another sinister turn