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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.

Oh, merciful Lord, we thank You for Your light that directs our steps. May the Members of this body feel Your guidance, peace, and power today. Join our lawmakers to Yourself with an inseparable bond of love, for You alone truly satisfy. Lord, grant that their love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight so that they may be able to deserve what is best and may be pure and blameless when they stand before You.

Send out Your light and Your truth that they may illuminate our lawmakers, our Nation, and our world.

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.

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

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Maria A. Lanahan, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The great Senator from Iowa.

C-SPAN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am pleased to follow up on a topic that I discussed with my Senate colleagues. That topic was on June 2, and it was on the 39th anniversary of C-SPAN covering the Senate. I led the Senate with Senators KLOBUCHAR, YOUNG, and WYDEN in passing a resolution highlighting the importance of continuous Senate coverage for all Americans and the need for live coverage of C-SPAN to be accessible on all platforms.

Yesterday, both Hulu and YouTube announced that YouTube TV and Hulu + Live TV will be carrying the C-SPAN networks so Americans can watch Congress's actions in realtime and see our democracy at work through a non-partisan lens.

I thank all of these entities for being committed to this public service.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. 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 MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

AUGUST STATE WORK PERIOD

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, over the last few weeks, we have all had a chance, my colleagues and I, to spend extra time in our States, talking to our constituents and reporting back on what we have been doing for the American people here in Washington.

And Republicans have a lot of good news to share. Among the things we have already delivered for the American people is permanent tax relief for working families, real security at our southern border, critical support for America's farmers and ranchers. And we are just getting started.

I always appreciate being able to travel South Dakota far and wide during these State work periods. It is a pleasure to visit communities around the State and hear directly from South Dakotans about the issues our country is facing.

Summertime is fair season in South Dakota, which means agriculture is front and center. I stopped by the Turner County Fair in Parker, the Sioux Empire Fair in Sioux Falls, the Central States Fair in Rapid City. On Monday, I was at the State Fair in Huron, SD.

Senator HOEVEN came south for the Brown County Fair in Aberdeen, where he joined me for a great discussion on the support for farmers and ranchers we provided in the One Big Beautiful Bill. And, of course, I made sure he got the famous Tubby Burger, which is a favorite at the Brown County Fair.

At Dakotafest in Mitchell, I joined Senator ROUNDS and Congressman JOHNSON for the Farm Bureau's annual ag policy forum. We discussed how farmers are still struggling with high input costs and depressed commodity prices, causing upside-down margins for their operations.

While crop yields are strong and the One Big Beautiful Bill adjusted reference prices to ensure that commodity programs more closely reflect market conditions, there is more work

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



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to do. That includes boosting agriculture through trade opportunities and increased market access.

We had a lot to report to farmers and ranchers about the One Big Beautiful Bill, from strengthening commodity programs and crop insurance to supporting livestock producers facing losses to raising the exemption threshold to save more farms and ranches from the death tax.

And we are going to keep on working to build up strong family farms and ranches in America.

I also had the opportunity to visit some small towns in South Dakota, walk down Main Street, and meet small business owners in these communities. In Hoven, SD, I stopped into Salon 54, Brew 54, and more, and the Plains Commerce Bank on Main Street. I also stopped into city hall—one of my favorite ways to learn about a community's needs and how I can help.

In Mobridge, I toured the local hospital and attended an event supporting small businesses with Grow South Dakota and Akipton. Small businesses aren't always easy to run, but they are the backbone of our communities. Mr. Bob's Drive-In and Shorty's One Stop in Selby are two more small businesses that I visited this past month. I also stopped by Bauer's Super Valu, Buttercup Coffee Shop, and Blondie's Tables and Taps in Faulkton, SD. It was a great way to catch up with entrepreneurs, workers, and customers of these small businesses.

And there is a lot of good news in the One Big Beautiful Bill for small businesses and their employees. No tax on tips and overtime is welcome news to servers, busboys, bartenders, and the millions of workers who earn tips or put in extra hours to earn overtime pay.

And permanent tax relief in this bill means lower tax bills in working families in every corner of South Dakota.

For small businesses, permanent tax relief will help free up cash to invest in their workers and grow their businesses. And investment incentives like bonus depreciations will help businesses, farmers, and ranchers invest in new equipment for their operations.

I had a lot of good conversations these last few weeks, but some of my favorite moments come when I have a chance to just say "thank you." I had the opportunity to do that a few times this last month. I met with first responders from the Aberdeen Fire Rescue and law enforcement officers from the Rapid City Police Department and Pennington County Sheriff's Office to thank them for serving.

I got to participate in annual ag appreciation event at the Sioux Empire State Fair and the Central States Fair, shaking hands with hard-working farmers and ranchers.

And it was humbling to reflect on the service of South Dakotans past and present at the battleship *South Dakota* Memorial Day of Honor and to be on

hand for the 28th Bomb Wing change of command ceremony at Ellsworth Air Force Base.

It has been a busy few weeks back home in South Dakota and for all of my colleagues as they moved across their States these last few weeks. And now it is going to be a busy few weeks here in Washington. We are setting our country up for a stronger and more prosperous future, and I can't wait to see the benefits for my State of South Dakota and for our entire country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive 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.

REVOLUTION WIND

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this morning, I spoke with Revolution Wind, informing me that they are suing the Trump administration over their attacks on offshore wind projects. The suit is a regrettable but necessary step, illustrating the deep damage Donald Trump's administration is causing to American energy and to U.S. jobs.

Donald Trump has made no secret he detests offshore wind strategy—and for no good reason. He doesn't like the way the windmills look. Someone built windmills off the coast of his golf course in Scotland, and he thought it was ugly. So what Donald Trump will do because of these whims is raise everybody's electricity prices dramatically. When your electric bill goes up, it is because of Donald Trump's whims. This one is ridiculous as 80 percent—or over 80 percent of it has been built. Billions of dollars have been sunk into the ground—and they call up, and they say stop, and they don't even give them a reason.

How can so many people go along with his idiotic behavior? How can so many people go along when Donald Trump simply has a whim that is just dumb, stupid, and harmful to the American people and no one does anything about it? Then he has all his minions in the various Agencies shut it off. People's electric bills are spiking. Our energy grid is strained. Everyone admits we need more energy, particularly as AI sucks up so much of it, and Donald Trump is making things worse based on no logic—based on a ridiculous whim.

So we are going to lose thousands of jobs; prices will go up; we won't expand American power; China will gain on us. So it is good that Revolution Wind is taking this step by going to court. But the idiocy of this policy has not been rebutted by anyone in the administration. They just go, "Yes, sir," and go along. It is a disgrace.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. President, on the appropriations process: Well, yesterday, Senate Democrats had a very good meeting about the appropriations process. All of us—myself, Leader JEFFRIES, Senate Democrats, House Democrats, Senator MURRAY, Ranking Member DELAUNO—we are all on the same page. The only way to avoid a shutdown on September 30 is to work in a bipartisan way; but Republicans are, once again, threatening to go at it alone, which will lead our country straight into a shutdown—a Republican-caused shutdown—because they refuse to work in a bipartisan way. Democrats don't want a shutdown. We want bipartisan negotiations and a bipartisan bill, where we can have some real input in undoing a lot of the damage that has been done by this administration.

If Republicans want to keep the government open, they have to work with Democrats in a bipartisan way. That is the only way to get it done, but if Republicans choose to continue going at it alone, if they refuse to be reasonable, if they close the door on negotiations, then any shutdown is going to be on them. Time is short.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Finally, Mr. President, on the good, old feeling of American optimism, unfortunately, in Donald Trump's America, American optimism is dying.

This week, a Wall Street Journal/NORC poll found the share of Americans who are positive about their future has fallen to a record low. It is the lowest level in the poll's history—the lowest level in the poll's history. The sunny American optimism that if I work hard, I will be doing better 10 years from now than I am doing today, and my kids will be doing still better than me is fading rapidly. Only one in four Americans believes they can improve their standard of living, and 70 percent of Americans believe the American dream no longer holds. That is a tragedy. The great, sunny American optimism, which has fueled us to greatness, which has pushed us to move forward despite crises and obstacles in the way, is dying.

This is a tragedy, and it is a warning, and most of all, it reflects how Americans feel under Donald Trump's leadership, and it is hard to blame Americans who feel this way. When rents go up, when mortgages go up, when the electric bill goes up—we just talked about what they are doing with offshore wind—and when groceries get more expensive, people don't want a President obsessed with military parades and winning the Nobel Peace Prize. They want someone with real solutions.

Donald Trump is stuck in his own little fantasy world. There is even another study that says Americans now think they are going to be spending less on Christmas goods this year, less on Christmas gifts. That is when you know something is deeply, deeply wrong, because Americans want to spend more for their children, for their