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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.

Sacred God, You fill our hearts with songs. We are grateful for the hope You bring to our world. Thank You that You will judge the world with righteousness and Your people with truth.

Guide our lawmakers. Lead them even through life's dark places. Remind them that darkness is as light to You. Protect them from life's storms for You are their help in all of their tomorrows. Inspire them with Your joy as You place Your peace in their hearts.

Lord, teach them to number their days, that they may apply their hearts to wisdom.

And, Lord, we thank You for the presence of King Charles and Queen Camilla on American soil.

We pray in Your solemn 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. ARMSTRONG). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Iowa.

REMEMBERING HENRY A. WALLACE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, 2026 is an opportunity to talk about the centennial progress in American agriculture and a famous Iowa family that was involved in that.

Before I give my remarks on that centennial, I would like to give a little history of the Wallace family of Iowa—three generations.

Grandfather Henry Wallace, I don't have a lot of history on, but Henry C. Wallace, his son, was President Harding's Secretary of Agriculture, from 1921 until Henry's death in 1924. And then Henry C. Wallace had a son, Henry A. Wallace, who was Secretary of Agriculture and Secretary of Commerce from 1933 to 1941, under Franklin Roosevelt's first two terms.

Unlike his father, who was presumably a Republican under President Harding, Henry A. Wallace was obviously a Democrat to serve in Franklin Roosevelt's Cabinet, and then he went on to be a Vice President during Franklin Roosevelt's third term.

In 1948, this same Henry A. Wallace was the Progressive Party's candidate for President of the United States, a time when Harry Truman was reelected President of the generation.

So that is kind of the politics of the people I am talking about, but I am talking about their role in American agriculture and what it has meant for the production of corn today in the United States.

So we celebrate the work of an Iowan who pioneered new frontiers in American agriculture. That pioneer was Henry A. Wallace.

Like many farm kids, Henry grew up with soil, the very soul of Iowa running through his veins. Henry's dad and grandfather—both named, as I said, Henry—cofounded a publication called "Wallaces Farmer," a trusted farm journal for farmers across the Midwest.

Exactly 100 years ago, on April 20, 1926, Henry's hybrid seed corn business was incorporated. At that time, Iowan corn farmers planted seeds that they saved from the previous year, called open-pollinated corn. Yields were about 20 bushels per acre, from one year to the next, year after year.

In fact, history tells us that the production of corn in the United States is about 25 bushel per acre, from the Civil War until the 1930s. That is when Wallace researched and made great progress in increasing yields.

So Henry A. Wallace, the famous Secretary of Agriculture and Vice President of the United States, revolutionized corn yields by crossing open-pollinated corn varieties. Together with an Iowa State University professor, he developed the Iowa Corn Yield Test. In 1924, Henry A. Wallace won the contest with a hybrid called Copper Cross.

Like many American innovators, Henry had an idea and put that idea to work to accomplish his goals. His efforts would transform production agriculture, but, first, Henry needed markets for his new research and his product that resulted from that research.

So using famous Iowa ingenuity, he cultivated trust with his customers. Those customers, of course, were the family farmers of that day. He adopted a farmer-to-farmer sales model.

In 1935, Henry renamed Hi-Bred Corn Company to the name of Pioneer, and Pioneer is still a famous name for farmers in Iowa. And that company was the Pioneer Seed Corn Company until recently. A company named Corteva took it over.

So, Iowa, of course, is known as the "Tall Corn State," thanks in large part to the adoption of hybrid corn. Henry A. Wallace helped corn farmers go from 20 bushels of corn per acre to now the average being over 200 bushels of corn per acre.

And we have some people, in contests over the United States, that on 5-acre plots they do a lot of extra things to

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



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accomplish it and have even produced corn yielding 350 bushels of corn per acre. And I don't know if that is going to be something that is going to be common, 20 years from now or maybe even 10 years from now, but we sure have made great progress.

When I started farming, in 1960, when my dad died, I was probably producing about 50 bushels of corn per acre. More recently, we have reached the 200-bushel level.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

WELCOMING KING CHARLES AND QUEEN CAMILLA OF ENGLAND

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin, I want to mention how pleased we are to be able to welcome King Charles and Queen Camilla to the Capitol today.

A special relationship between our two nations has been a long and fruitful one, and I think it is fair to say that over the course of our Nation's history, we have had no closer ally than Great Britain.

We have stood together in war and in peace and, together, opposed the enemies of the free world. And I am confident that we will continue to stand together for centuries to come.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, this week is National Apprenticeship Week. This week, we celebrate the pathways that apprenticeships provide for many Americans to attain their American dream, to find a good-paying job, and to do meaningful work.

Working in the trades or in manufacturing is, indeed, meaningful work. No matter how far technology advances, we are still going to need builders, doers, and makers.

To my knowledge, there is no artificial intelligence that can climb an electric pole; there is no chatbot that can fix a toilet; and there is no app that will install your home's HVAC system.

Skilled jobs are in-demand jobs, and they are going to be in demand for a long time to come. And we need to invest in and support the next generation of skilled professionals.

That is one of the things that Republicans did last year in the Working

Families Tax Cut bill. That landmark piece of legislation made a significant investment in American workers, starting with investing in education and training programs that support skilled jobs.

For decades now, the 529 education savings plan has been a powerful tool for parents to save for their kids' education. At first, 529s could only be used for college; but in 2017, Republicans expanded the eligible uses of 529 plans to include K-12 expenses as well.

And in last year's Working Families Tax Cut, Republicans expanded 529s again and gave Americans flexibility to use their savings for vocational and continuing education programs as well.

On top of that, we doubled the withdrawal limit to \$20,000 per year, giving Americans even greater flexibility to choose a program that suits their needs and their dreams.

The expansion of 529s complements the creation of new Trump Accounts in the Working Families Tax Cut. Trump Accounts provide parents with another option to invest in their children's future.

The money in those accounts can be used for education, to buy a first home, or to start a business when a child reaches adulthood. They are just one more way to give the next generation a head start on their American dream.

And speaking of creating options and opportunity, beginning this summer, Americans will be able to take advantage of the new Workforce Pell program created by the Working Families Tax Cut.

Most people are probably familiar with the traditional Pell Grant Program. Pell grants offer need-based financial aid for students in undergraduate degree programs. And until now, they have generally been limited to students in those programs.

Workforce Pell will provide financial assistance to Americans in shorter-term skills and career training programs. It will help workers pursuing skills for in-demand jobs at various stages of their careers. And it will be available to those just joining the workforce, those looking to grow and advance in their careers, and those who may be looking to switch careers, even if they have already earned a bachelor's degree.

And this innovative new program will help grow the workforce for a number of important jobs: careers in healthcare like phlebotomy and paramedicine, truck driving, childcare, welding, and numerous other skilled professions that provide pathways to success.

In addition to supporting the education needed for more Americans to pursue careers in the trades and in manufacturing, the Working Families Tax Cut also supports their success once they are in those jobs.

The pro-worker and pro-growth tax policy in the bill allows American workers to keep more of their hard-earned money and supports the small

business growth, job growth, and entrepreneurship that mean more opportunities for Americans to get ahead.

The Working Families Tax Cut made lower tax rates permanent, which means bigger paychecks and bigger refunds for hard-working Americans.

And then there is no tax on overtime, which allows workers to keep more of the money they earn when they spend extra hours on the job. It is not uncommon for workers in manufacturing and the trades to put in more than 40 hours a week. So no tax on overtime is going to deliver significant tax savings to many of these Americans.

And then there are the pro-growth tax policies in this bill, like permanently lowered tax rates for small businesses. The 199A small business deduction is also now a permanent feature of America's Tax Code. It allows small businesses, farms, and ranches to reduce their tax burden and invest more in their operations and in their employees.

And then there is full expensing for new equipment, which is now permanent thanks to this bill, and supports businesses upgrading and replacing machinery and other equipment that is essential to their work.

This landmark bill also allows for full expensing of new factories and factory improvements. And we have seen a number of manufacturing investments being made across the United States since this bill passed last year.

One of the pillars of the Working Families Tax Cut is providing Americans with more opportunities to get ahead. And everything I have mentioned this morning is about cultivating opportunity, whether it is investing in education, supporting good-paying jobs, encouraging entrepreneurship, and promoting an economic environment where businesses can grow and create those good-paying jobs.

That is what the Working Families Tax Cut is all about, and this story is only just beginning to be written.

I yield the floor.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as our Nation wages Donald Trump's reckless war with a dangerous and erratic enemy and as the Department of Homeland Security is still not funded because of the high jinks within the