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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 8, 2021, at 10 a.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2021

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MAZIE K. HIRONO, a Senator from the State of Hawaii.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, teach us how to live our lives with wisdom, refusing to deviate from the path of integrity.

Lord, give our lawmakers the wisdom to trust in You and do good, enabling them to help our Nation become safe and secure. As our Senators commit their plans and work to You, bless their efforts with radiant success. Help them to remember the power of godliness, and may they use it to discern the difference between right and wrong.

Remind us all that Your sacred Word continues to be a lamp of wisdom, providing light for our feet and illumination for the road ahead.

We pray in Your righteous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 7, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MAZIE K. HIRONO, a Senator from the State of Hawaii, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. HIRONO thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the Senate returns to session with a busy and consequential work period ahead of it. We will consider landmark legislation to establish paycheck fairness, legislation to boost American innovation in the 21st century, and in the final week of June, legislation to protect voting rights and American democracy. The Senate will consider all three of these issues this month.

We will start by finishing the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act, now known as the USICA Act. The bipartisan legislation will be the largest investment in scientific research and

technological innovation in generations, setting the United States on a path to lead the world in the industries of the future. It includes the input of virtually everyone in this Chamber—a product of over six committees and dozens of amendments from our Republican colleagues.

Tomorrow, the Senate will consider a couple of final amendments before passing this historic legislation. It will be one of the most important things we will have done in a very long time. It will be the largest investment in scientific research and technological innovation in generations—decades.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on judges, in addition, today and tomorrow, the Senate will confirm the first of President Biden's nominees to the Federal bench: Julien Xavier Neals of New Jersey and Regina Rodriguez of Colorado. I also look forward to confirming other highly qualified jurists later this work period, including Ketanji Brown Jackson to serve on the DC Circuit Court of Appeals. These are the first of many jurists that the Democratic Senate will consider to restore the balance to the Federal judiciary.

Under President Trump and Leader MCCONNELL, the Senate became a conveyor belt for nearly 200 judges. Many were woefully inexperienced and far outside the judicial mainstream. Some were so extreme on issues of race and voting rights that even some of our Republican colleagues joined the Democrats in rejecting those nominations.

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



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