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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, sustainer of nations, continue to heal our land. We claim Your promise that if people of faith will humble themselves and fervently seek You in prayer as they turn from evil, that You will hear their intercession, forgive their sins, and heal their land.

Use our lawmakers as instruments of unity. As they model the bridge building necessary to bring harmony and healing to nations, may their positive example transform lives. Lord, lead our Senators in righteous paths that will keep our Nation strong. Equip them to conduct the work of freedom with justice and humility.

Teach us all to disagree without being disagreeable, to seek to understand before being understood, to plant seeds of love to counteract hate, and to sow seeds of hope to eliminate despair.

We pray in Your sacred 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PAUL). The majority leader is recognized.

TRADE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday's TPA vote was a long-overdue

victory for the American worker and the American middle class. It was not easy. Many thought it would never happen. We even saw corks pop in the facts-optional lobby a few weeks ago. But that proved to be premature because here is what we have always known about the legislation we will vote to send to the President today. It is underpinned by a simple but powerful idea: For American workers to have a fair shot in the 21st-century economy, it makes sense to remove the unfair barriers that discriminate against them and the products they make.

Some may disagree. They certainly were not quiet in voicing their opinions. It is OK if they do not share our passion for ending this unfair discrimination against American workers. It is OK if they would rather rail against them tomorrow. But a bipartisan coalition in the House and the Senate thought it was time for forward progress instead.

We were very pleased to see President Obama pursue an idea we have long believed in. We thank him for his efforts to help us advance this measure. We thank all of our friends across the aisle for their efforts, too, Senator WYDEN most of all. Over in the House, I commend Speaker BOEHNER and Chairman RYAN for everything they have done. It hasn't been easy, and without them it would not have been possible. Of course, let me thank Chairman ORRIN HATCH for demonstrating such patience, persistence, and determination throughout this process. He never lost sight of the goal. He never gave up. The people of Utah are lucky to have him.

The Senate's work on trade does not end today. I said the Senate would finish pursuing the rest of the full trade package, and it will. We will take another cloture vote today to that end. That process continues. But the key victory for American workers and products stamped "Made in the U.S.A." comes today. The bill we are about to

pass will assert Congress's authority throughout the trade negotiation process. It will ensure that we have the tools we need to properly scrutinize whatever trade agreements are ultimately negotiated. It will make clear that the final say rests with us.

We had plenty of bumps along the road—frankly, a few big potholes, too—but we worked across the aisle to get through all of them. That is an example of how a new Congress is back to work for the American people. I thank everyone who helped us get where we are. Now let's vote again to support the American worker and the American middle class by approving the bipartisan TPA bill.

CYBER SECURITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, on another matter, here is a headline from an Associated Press article that ran yesterday: "Federal Agencies Are Wide Open to Hackers, Cyberspies." That headline is scary enough, but read just a little further, and it gets even worse.

Passwords written down on desks. Outdated anti-virus software. "Perceived ineptitude" in information-technology departments.

The federal government, which holds secrets and sensitive information ranging from nuclear blueprints to the tax returns of hundreds of millions of Americans, has for years failed to take basic steps to protect its data from hackers and thieves, records show. In the latest example, the Office of Personnel Management is under fire for allowing its databases to be plundered by suspected Chinese cyberspies in what is being called one of the worst breaches in U.S. history. OPM repeatedly neglected to implement basic cybersecurity protections, its internal watchdog told Congress.

Let me repeat that—"one of the worst breaches in U.S. history." If you are looking for something scary to tell the kids around the campfire tonight, I would suggest reading the rest of the article. It gets a lot worse. To call this alarming would be quite an understatement.

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



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