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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.

Lord, through all the generations, You have been our refuge. We live our lives sheltered by Your love.

Enable our Senators to find hope in the knowledge that You are indeed in such control of our world that no weapon formed against us will prosper. Deliver our lawmakers from judgmental attitudes that prompt them to think about others in any way contrary to Your love.

Lord, transform us all by the power of Your Grace. We praise You and give You thanks because nothing can separate us from Your love.

We pray in Your compassionate 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.

TRIBUTE TO ED WHITFIELD

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday Representative ED WHITFIELD announced that he will retire at the end of this term. ED has served the First District of Kentucky for more than 20 years. He will be missed in the Capitol when he retires. It is clear that

his leadership will be missed in Kentucky too. Our troops at Fort Campbell will miss it. The workers at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant will miss it. Kentucky's countless coal families—hard-working Kentuckians he never failed to stand up for—will certainly miss it as well.

ED was rightly considered a western Kentucky trailblazer. He became the first Republican elected to represent that district in 1994. Our party, the Republican Party, never held that district going back to the Civil War. It was an enormous breakthrough. ED has worked hard and delivered for the Commonwealth in the two decades since. He will leave behind a record of service and accomplishment.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Senate will complete its work on the continuing resolution today.

We remember watching our Democratic colleagues swerve from crisis to crisis when they ran the Senate. Perhaps that is just all Democrats have known, but it is not right for them to again force America into another short-term funding situation such as this.

We are working to change the culture around here. Our determination remains to get the Senate back to normal, with a functional appropriations process. That is why for the first time in 6 years the Senate actually passed a budget. That is why for the first time in 6 years the Senate actually passed through committee the dozen appropriations bills necessary to properly fund the government.

Now that the CR appears to be on track, we can turn back to the last step in the Senate's normal appropriations process; that is, getting the funding bills passed on the floor. Democrats have blocked them all this year as part of some arbitrary strategy to force our Nation to the brink. They certainly

succeeded in doing that, but I think the American people are ready for our colleagues to finally get serious and get back to work. Americans are ready to see Democrats start supporting, not blocking, the very bipartisan funding legislation Democrats previously voted for and bragged about in press releases. Our colleagues will have that opportunity this week when we turn back to the regular appropriations process.

It is true that moving forward will require Democrats to definitively turn the page on years of bad habits and dysfunction, but it is the right thing to do for our country. We will see if they are ready to do so later this week.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

GRIDLOCK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, my friend the Republican leader is reciting facts that are not real. Everyone knows what has happened in this body and in the House of Representatives the last few years—gridlock. Republicans in the House cannot agree with Republicans in the Senate, and it appears Republicans in the Senate cannot agree among themselves. So for my friend to talk about how great things are going is not reality.

We need to start working together, not apart. And, working with Republicans, we find it is very difficult to develop any kind of partnerships, as we always did in the past until Republican leaders took over the Congress.

I would hope my friends the Republicans would understand we have to start doing things to help the country. We are in the situation we are in. It is September 30. The country will be out of money in just a few hours. Why do we wait until the last minute and then only provide enough money to get us to the first part of December?

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



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