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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

God of hope, who fills us with joy and peace, sustain our Senators and those who support them with the power of Your Holy Spirit. Work in them, enabling them to do infinitely more than they can imagine.

Lord, give them a peace which the world cannot give and a passion to accomplish Your purposes. When they are weary, give them rest, and when they are discouraged, empower them to persevere. Prepare their hearts and minds to serve You and country with humility and integrity, as they work together with mutual forbearance and respect.

Lord, teach them to seek first Your honor and glory. But above all, fill them with Your matchless love.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON TESTER 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. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 17, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. TESTER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today following leader remarks, there will be an hour for morning business. Senators will be able to speak for up to 10 minutes each. The Republicans will control the first half, and the majority will control the second half. The Senate will proceed thereafter to the motion to proceed to H.R. 6049, the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act. The time until 12:30 is equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. The Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus luncheons. Following the recess, the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to H.R. 6049, the Renewable Energy Act.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 5749

Mr. REID. Mr. President, my distinguished friend, the Senator from the State of Arizona, is here. As a result, I am going to propound a unanimous-consent request so as not to cause him to have to spend any time here he would not ordinarily have to do.

The House has passed an unemployment compensation bill. I am going to show the Senate in a little while that we are at 76 filibusters. I am not going to go through another one on unem-

ployment compensation. If we do not agree to pass this bill at this time, there will not be a long floor debate on unemployment compensation. What we will do, it is my understanding this legislation will be in the supplemental we will get from the House. That being the case, we will have ample time to talk about the issue if anybody wants to.

The distinguished majority whip is going to speak on unemployment compensation, as are some others today. But right now I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 780, H.R. 5749, a bill we recently received from the House, the Emergency Extended Unemployment Compensation Act. I ask that the bill be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I do object. I wonder if I may make one brief comment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I wish to make the point that when we do extend unemployment benefits, if we do, the Senate needs to weigh in on its ideas about how it ought to be done, for one thing. The House-passed bill, which I don't think we want to consider, eliminates the 20-week work requirement which has been the law now since 1981. So theoretically someone could work a very short period of time and be entitled to this 13-week extension, something I don't think we want to change. As a result, we would like the Senate to weigh in and get it done the right way. For that reason, I have to object to bringing the House bill up at this time.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we will be willing now to accept that change in the legislation and pass it.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, if I might further address the majority leader

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



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