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No. 18

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, February 2, 2009, at 2 p.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2009

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by Rabbi Daniel J. Fellman, Anshe Emeth Memorial Temple, New Brunswick, NJ.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

We arrive this morning filled with thanks to our Creator who endows each of us with inalienable rights; to our founding leaders who joined those rights with responsibilities for ourselves and our fellow citizens; to the people of our Nation for entrusting us with awe-inspiring duties; to each other as we endeavor to maintain civility, striving for dignity and high purpose in conducting the people's business.

Today and every day, let us strive to fill this Chamber with humanity, humility, and hope, honoring our Nation's past while honing our unique yet shared understanding of the future's ever-present call.

As we turn to the business of the people, remind us that we have not come into being to hate or to destroy but, rather, we have come into being to praise, to labor, and to love.

With gratitude in our souls, we turn to the source of all, seeking blessing for ourselves, our families, our endeavors.

May we be guided by the light of the Lord, and may we be of the generation who shines that light for all to see.

And let us live the words of our first President: "May the Father of all mercies scatter light and not darkness in our paths, and make us all in our several vocations useful here, and in his or her own due time and way, everlastingly happy."

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SHERROD BROWN 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 29, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2009

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate shall resume consideration of H.R. 2, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2) to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to extend and improve the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Coburn amendment No. 49 (to H.R. 2, as amended), to prevent fraud and restore fiscal accountability to the Medicaid and SCHIP programs.

Coburn amendment No. 50 (to H.R. 2, as amended), to restore fiscal discipline by making the Medicaid and SCHIP programs more accountable and efficient.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Nebraska is recognized.

THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I am very pleased that Rabbi Daniel Fellman could join us today as guest Chaplain to deliver the opening prayer for the Senate.

Rabbi Fellman, a native of Omaha and a respected religious leader, currently is assistant rabbi at Anshe Emeth Memorial Temple in New Brunswick, NJ. He is a much admired teacher who has served on the faculty

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



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