



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

No. 130

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROLAND BURRIS, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, You know all about us. You know when we sit down and rise up. You know when we sin and when we obey. Purge our lives of every wrong thing, that we may glorify You in all we say and do.

Lord, guide our lawmakers in their daily work. Enlighten their minds and strengthen their hearts. May they not neglect to see the beauty and wonder in our world as they find joy in the loveliness of nature, the satisfaction of friendship, and the conquest of difficulties. Teach them to listen for Your voice and to wait for Your guidance. Lift their lives from the battle zone of combative words to a caring community where leaders pray for and communicate esteem to each other.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROLAND BURRIS 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, September 15, 2009.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable ROLAND BURRIS, a Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,

President pro tempore.

Mr. BURRIS 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, following leader remarks, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for an hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. The majority will control the first 30 minutes and the Republicans will control the final 30 minutes.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3288, the Transportation-HUD appropriations bill. On this legislation, the chairman of the subcommittee, Senator MURRAY, was available Thursday afternoon, Friday, and Monday. There has been little, if any, interest in moving amendments to the floor. I would hope we could finish the bill today. We are not going to have any votes late this afternoon, but I would hope that if people determine they are not going to offer amendments, they at least let us finish the bill. This will be only our fifth appropriations bill we will have done. We have many more to do. I have trouble comprehending people not letting us finish these bills and then complaining that we have to do a continuing resolution to fund the government.

That is where we are. I hope we can have cooperation. I hope we do not have to file cloture on this bill. It would seem to be so unnecessary. Remember, I repeat, she was here Thurs-

day, Friday, and Monday. She will be here today in just a few minutes—"she" meaning PATTY MURRAY.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. today for the weekly caucus luncheons. There will be no rollcall votes after 3 p.m. today.

Mr. President, I had a meeting with Senator MCCONNELL. We try to get together personally every week. It is nice that we have a chance to visit privately. But also we talked about what the schedule is going to be. We have a lot to do. I went over that in some detail with the Republican leader. We have now scheduled a work period at home on Columbus Day week. We have many times in the past taken that recess because there is so much work to do at home. But we cannot do that unless we complete our work here. I have explained that to the Republican leader, and he knows that. We will see what progress we can make in the next few weeks as to whether we can do that.

I will not go into detail about all the work we have to do, but we are on a fiscal year basis. That fiscal year ends at the end of September. We are in September now. We have a lot of must-do legislation we have to move forward on as quickly as we can.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. REID. Excuse me, Mr. President, I withdraw that request. I did not see my friend from North Dakota. I withdraw that request and ask the Chair to announce that we are in a period of morning business.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the

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



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