

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS 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 read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The bill clerk read as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 18, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COONS 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, Senators should expect a series of up to three or four rollcall votes beginning at 10:30 this morning or thereabouts. The first vote will be on cloture with respect to the DREAM Act. If cloture is not invoked on the DREAM Act, the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote with respect to the don't ask, don't tell repeal.

Following the cloture votes, the Senate will proceed to vote on two confirmations: Albert Diaz, of North Carolina, to be a U.S. circuit judge, and Ellen Hollander from Maryland to be a U.S. district judge.

I note the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Could the Chair advise me how long was taken in this last quorum call.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Seven minutes.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the time for debate continue to be 45 minutes on each side, with the time to begin as outlined in the previous order, but the time that I took speak-

ing to whom I had to speak not count against the 90 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to resume legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that prior to any of the succeeding votes, there be 2 minutes of debate, equally divided and controlled in the usual form; further, that after the first vote, the succeeding votes be limited to 10 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate is now in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for a period of up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Alabama.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, under the previous discussion we had, I had been authorized to use 15 of our 45 minutes, and I would ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for 15 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. I assume this will be counted against our time.

THE DREAM ACT

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, essential to America's greatness, I truly believe, is our respect for the rule of law. The American people understand this. For years, they have asked Congress and the President to secure the borders and to enforce our immigration laws, but for years Congress has refused to do that. Indeed, as part of this legislative session, there has been no serious movement to do anything that would improve the grievous situation of illegality at our borders. So what we have is contrary to that today, when we will be dealing with the DREAM Act. Leaders in Washington have not only tolerated lawlessness but, in fact, our policies have encouraged it. Americans living near the border are the ones who often pay the steepest price. Illegal drugs, guns, people pour into States such as Arizona and Texas every day. Phoenix has turned into the kidnapping capital of the world. Ranchers in

the southern part of the State are forced to accept chaos as a part of their daily lives. Smugglers, traffickers stream across their properties, homes are broken into, livestock killed, families placed in danger. Our government has failed in its duty to protect these citizens in the peaceful possession of their property.

Consider the fate of Robert Krentz, the son of one of Arizona's oldest ranching families working land that had been in the family 100 years. His home had been robbed, their livestock slaughtered. On the night of March 27, he went to mend a fence and check his water line. He reached his brother on the radio to say he was helping someone he believed to be illegally entering the country—helping them—and that was the last time anyone heard from Mr. Krentz. He was found several hours later, shot dead.

The death of Robert Krentz is sadly just one of the many tragedies that could have been avoided if the Federal Government had done its job. Instead, when Arizona tried to support the Federal immigration authorities, they were sued by Attorney General Holder, and the Department of Justice said stay out.

They were sued for trying to protect themselves because the Federal Government would not. Yet here we are in the final days of a lameduck—some say dead duck—Congress considering a bill that would create a major problem to the effective enforcement of immigration laws. People are not happy with us, Mr. President.

I had a little recognition and recalled in the shower this morning a little event with Oliver Cromwell with the long Parliament in England. He said:

It is high time for me to put an end to your sitting in this place. You have grown intolerably odious to the whole nation. In the name of God, go.

I don't think we are odious around here, but I think the American people are not happy with us. I think it is time for us to quit trying to move political bills in a way that is not appropriate, not through the regular process.

The American people are pleading with Congress to enforce our laws. But this bill is a law that, at its fundamental core, is a reward for illegal activity. It is the third time we have tried to schedule a vote on it, and during this lameduck session it is the fifth version of this legislation that has been introduced in the past 2 months. Not one of these bills has gone through committee. Not one of them is subject to amendment.

The House passed a bill after 1 hour of debate, having announced it being brought up 1 day before. In fact, the version we are now considering is the same one that was rammed through the House.

The majority leader has filled the tree. So, once again, the legislation cannot be amended.

For 2 years, Democratic leaders have ignored the public. They have rammed