



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 157

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2011

No. 55

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, accept with favor this, our sacrifice of praise, which we present. We offer You ourselves, thanking You for calling us to serve freedom's cause on Capitol Hill. Lord, You provide us with the opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of millions. We are honored to serve You by serving our country. Use our lawmakers who are people of faith to do everything with decency, precision, and integrity. Remove the barriers that divide us, replacing them with such a passionate love for You and country that we will continue to find the common ground of progress.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TOM UDALL 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. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 14, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator

from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico 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 any leader remarks, the Senate will be in morning business until we receive the continuing resolution papers from the House of Representatives; therefore, the time until 2 p.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two parties. Once the resolution arrives, there will be three rollcall votes in relation to the two correcting resolutions regarding health care reform and Planned Parenthood and passage of the long-term continuing resolution. It looks as though the House will vote around 4 p.m. We thought it would be earlier, but that time has slipped. Senators will be notified when we schedule the votes.

People can come and talk all they want. I am very appreciative of everybody in the Senate—Democrats, Republicans—that we were able to get the consent agreement to move forward after we get the papers from the House. If there were ever an issue that has been talked to death, it is this resolution. I think everyone realizes we have talked about this long enough. If anyone has anything to say before 2 o'clock about this or anything else, you are welcome to come to the Senate floor. There will be no debate. These papers will arrive, and we will vote on them as quickly as we can.

Would the Chair announce morning business, please.

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 Senate will be in a period of morning business, with the time until 2 p.m. equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. President, I ask that the time be equally divided during the time of morning business and that if there are quorum calls, they be equally divided.

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

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

PRESIDENT OBAMA JOINS THE DEBATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday, President Obama outlined what he is describing as a "responsible" approach to our Nation's fiscal problems. And my initial response to that characterization is that, with all due respect,

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



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