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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

PRAYER

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

O God our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, help us to appreciate all that has gone on before us, all those who have given their lives for the sake of freedom, and all the sacrifices that have been made to keep America strong. Strengthen us to find ways to join this fraternity of patriots who more than self their country loved.

Today, empower our Senators to experience a fresh regenerating touch of Your power: Where there is sorrow, let there be joy; where there is despair, hope; where there is weakness, strength; where there is anxiety, peace; where there is sin, forgiveness. Teach us how to be stewards of power and yet custodians of peace.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND 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, June 22, 2011.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND 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. Following any leader remarks, the Senate will be in morning business until 11 a.m., with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 679, the Presidential Appointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act.

We are working on an agreement to begin consideration of this bill and will notify Senators when votes are scheduled.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

I would ask unanimous consent that the time not end at 11 a.m. on the majority and minority, that they each have a full half hour.

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

BIPARTISANSHIP

Mr. REID. Madam President, yesterday my friends, the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee and the ranking member of the Armed Services Committee, submitted a resolution supporting the U.S. involvement in the NATO action in Libya.

I commend my friends who have submitted a strong bipartisan resolution

with an impressive list of cosponsors, including Senators MCCAIN, LEVIN, DURBIN, KYL, FEINSTEIN, GRAHAM, LIEBERMAN, BLUNT, CARDIN, and others. This should have overwhelming support, and I am confident it will.

Some Republicans in the House of Representatives and on the campaign trail have expressed concern over our involvement in this conflict. They have clearly decided to use the War Powers Resolution as a political bludgeon to pursue a partisan agenda.

But I also believe there is a larger question we must each ask ourselves as Senators as we consider this military action: Was our participation in the international effort to stop mass murder and chaos in Libya a just decision? I am confident it was.

Muammar Qadhafi's repressive dictatorship is a threat to the region and to U.S. national security. Our support of this mission is crucial for our NATO alliance that is leading this mission and for the people of Libya who lived far too long under Qadhafi's brutal regime.

I thank the Senator from Massachusetts and the senior Senator from Arizona for beginning to deliberate. These two senior Senators have begun a deliberate, bipartisan discussion of this important matter in the Senate. Working together, this bipartisan group of Senators has made a clear statement to our allies, to the world, to the Libyan people, and to Qadhafi that we support the people's action in Libya.

The Senate is truly at its best when bipartisan lawmakers work together. That is why it is so unfortunate that yesterday Republicans were unwilling to join us in our efforts to create jobs for Americans who need them so very badly. For the fourth time this year, my Republican colleagues stalled a jobs bill that could have put hundreds of thousands of Americans to work now.

This was the second jobs bill Republicans have killed by piling on unrelated amendments—the EDA bill that I

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



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