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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:

Let us pray.

O Lord, our God, ever living and ever giving, strengthen us to enter into Your purpose and to bring blessings to our world. Kindle such flames of sacred love within the hearts of our Senators that they will be motivated by their passion to please You. Amid all that is transient and temporal, keep them loyal to the transcendent and determined. May they test their actions by their conscience and by their wisdom of Your word and spirit. Lord, strengthen them in every endeavor, empowering them in all that pertains to that righteousness which exalts a nation. Bind them together in the oneness of a shared commitment to You.

We pray in Your sacred 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, July 25, 2012.

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.

MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUT ACT— MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Madam President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 467, the Middle Class Tax Cut Act of 2012.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 467, S. 3412, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief to middle class families.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, we are now in the midst of another Republican filibuster. So the time until 2:15 today will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. The Republicans will control the first 30 minutes and the majority will control the second 30 minutes. At 2:15, there will be a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the Middle Class Tax Cut Act that was just outlined by the clerk.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3429

Mr. REID. Madam President, I understand that S. 3429 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3429) to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans job corps, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I would object to any further proceedings with respect to this legislation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

MIDDLE CLASS TAX CUT ACT OF 2012

Mr. REID. Madam President, for the third time in as many weeks, Republicans are poised to kill a tax cut without ever debating it on the Senate floor.

Two weeks ago, Republicans filibustered legislation to cut taxes for small businesses. Last week, they filibustered a bill to end tax breaks for corporations that ship jobs overseas and cut taxes for companies that move jobs back to America. Now they are filibustering our plan to cut taxes for 114 million middle-class families. Not one of these bills has gotten a debate on the Senate floor. So let's look at what led to this latest Republican filibuster.

Two weeks ago, Senator MCCONNELL came to the Senate floor to ask for two votes, one on the Democratic plan to cut taxes for 98 percent of American families and reduce the deficit by about \$1 trillion. The other vote he wanted was on the Republican plan to raise taxes by \$1,000 each for 25 million middle-class families while handing out tax breaks to millionaires of \$160,000 each.

That afternoon, I told the minority leader that Democrats were willing to give Republicans what they said they wanted—those two votes. But although it had been only a few short hours since Senator MCCONNELL asked for those two votes, my offer was refused. He said he had to see our proposal first.

It seemed like a thin excuse at the time. He hadn't seen our proposal when he asked for the votes in the first place, but others within his caucus had seen it, and the staff had seen it, of course. But I took the minority leader at his word.

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



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