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Senate

The Senate met at 10 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.

Eternal Lord God, we praise You for surrounding us with the shield of Your salvation. When we cry to You for help, You are always near, ever ready to comfort and cheer. When we remember what You have already done to bless our Nation and our lives, we can only declare, "Great is Your faithfulness."

As our Senators strive today to do Your will, remind them that Your love has no limits, Your hope has no restrictions, and Your power has no end. Guide them as they seek to discern what is best for our Nation and to courageously vote their convictions.

We pray in Your wonderful 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 19, 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.

FAMILY AND BUSINESS TAX CUT CERTAINTY ACT OF 2012—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 499, S. 3521, which is the tax extenders legislation reported out of the Finance Committee previously.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion to proceed.

The legislative clerk read as follows: Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 499, S. 3521, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend certain expiring provisions.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following my remarks and those of my distinguished friend, the Republican leader, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 3457, the Veterans Jobs Corps Act. The time until noon will be equally divided on that matter. At noon there will be a rollcall vote on the motion to waive the Budget Act with respect to the Veterans Jobs Corps bill. The Senate will then recess until 2:15 for our weekly caucus meetings.

At 2:15, there will be a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the continuing resolution. There could be additional votes with respect to the Veterans Jobs Corps Act this afternoon or subsequent to a vote at noon.

The Republican leader and I have had a conversation this morning where we

have discussed the rest of the week and next week, perhaps, and we are trying to move forward and get this done. We have certain things we have to get done, but there is nothing—nothing—more important than getting the funding for the country. I appreciate the House sending it to us in the fashion they did. So I think it behooves us to get this done as quickly as possible.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 5949

Mr. REID. Madam President, I am told H.R. 5949 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows: A bill (H.R. 5949) to extend the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 for five years.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

THE OTHER 47 PERCENT

Mr. REID. Madam President, for months I believed Mitt Romney wanted to be President of all of the United States. This week we learned Mitt Romney only wants to be President of half the United States.

If Mitt Romney were President, he wouldn't waste time worrying about the 47 percent of Americans whom he believes are "victims"—whom Romney believes are unwilling to take "personal responsibility," and those are his words, not mine. He can only worry about how the other half lives, I guess. That is what Mitt Romney told donors at a closed-door fundraiser in Florida a month or so ago.

But it turns out it wasn't closed. Someone videotaped every word he said to his wealthy donors. This is, among other things, what he said:

There are 47 percent who . . . are dependent upon government, who believe that they are victims, who believe that government has a responsibility to care for them, who believe that they are entitled to health care, to food, to housing, to you name it.

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



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