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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, March 25, 2013, at 10 a.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, 2013

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ANGUS S. KING, a Senator from the State of Maine.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

God of love and grace, our love is pale and fitful compared to Your infinite goodness. Inspire our lawmakers with Your guiding power so that they will pursue paths of peace and justice for all. Keep before them Your vision of bringing deliverance to captives, the recovery of sight to the blind, and permitting the oppressed to go free. Use them as healers and helpers and heralds of Your good tidings to our Nation and world. Assure them of Your love as You give them eyes to see Your saving truth.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ANGUS S. KING 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. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter.

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 22, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ANGUS S. KING, a Senator from the State of Maine, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. KING thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding that we are on the budget resolution, that it has been reported.

CONCURRENT BUDGET RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2014

Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 8, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 8) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2014, revising the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2013, and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2015 through 2023.

Pending:

Reid (for Mikulski) amendment No. 431, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to require equal pay policies and practices.

Reid (for Ayotte/Thune) amendment No. 158, to prohibit the consideration of a budget resolution that includes revenue increases while the civilian unemployment rate is above 5.5 percent, the administration's prediction for the unemployment rate without the stimulus.

Reid (for Cruz) amendment No. 202, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to provide for the repeal of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 and to encourage patient-centered reforms to improve health outcomes and reduce health care costs, promoting economic growth.

Reid (for Murray) amendment No. 439, to amend the deficit-neutral reserve fund for tax relief to provide tax relief for low and middle-income families.

Reid (for Crapo) amendment No. 222, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to repeal the tax increases enacted under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that were imposed on low-and middle-income Americans.

Reid (for Shaheen/Stabenow) amendment No. 438, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to protect women's access to health care, including primary and preventative health care, family planning and birth control, and employer-provided contraceptive coverage, such as was provided under the Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148).

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, from now until 11 a.m., there will be conversation on the floor. At 11 a.m., we will have six rollcall votes. The first vote will be 15 minutes and after that the votes will be 10 minutes each, as we said yesterday, and I enforced it. When the time is up, we are closing the vote. If the Republicans are not here, too bad; if the Democrats are not here, too

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



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