



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 2014

No. 52

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Holy God, all Your works do praise Your Name on the Earth, in the sky, and on the sea. Great is Your faithfulness. Stir Your edifying spirit among our Senators, liberating them from shortsightedness, as they work diligently for the freedom and justice of all. Lord, make them citizens of Your kingdom, so that Your will may be done on Earth even as it is done in Heaven. Help them to draw near to You with true hearts and the full assurance that their times are in Your hands. Thank You for the liberties You have given America and help us to remember that eternal vigilance is the price for freedom.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MINIMUM WAGE FAIRNESS ACT— MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 250.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 250, S. 1737, a bill to provide for an increase in the

Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans the final half.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3979, the legislative vehicle for the unemployment insurance extension legislation.

The Senate will recess, as we do every Tuesday, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m., to allow for our weekly caucus meetings.

KOCH BROTHERS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as I went about my business in the Senate yesterday, I was informed the Koch brothers are at it again. We know they are at it, but now they are at it in Nevada, among other places.

I am told one of their puppet organizations is going to run commercials against me in Nevada. That is quite interesting. As I understand it, they had focused on places where there is an election. They may not know it, but I am not running for anything for a few years, until my 6-year term is up.

What issues will they raise in those ads they say they are going to run in Nevada? That by my criticizing the Koch brothers, I have attacked their freedom of speech. The gall of these two brothers is staggering.

Keep in mind, they are the fifth richest people not in whatever State they live in—they have lots of different homes in America—but they are the fifth richest people in the world. These two mogul multibillionaires are so eager to force their will on the American people that they will do it even in the face of their own hypocrisy, which we have already established some time ago.

I am beginning to think April Fools' Day arrived 1 day early. See, it is a fool's errand for the Koch brothers to think they can use their money to frighten me or to brainwash Nevadans or the rest of the country. They are spending lots of money to try to do that. People of this Nation trace their freedom of speech back to the Constitution, not a bank account which has lots and lots of zeros at the end.

The Koch brothers are trying to use their immense wealth to buy their way around the laws and regulations of this Nation to make themselves even richer. Everything they do is so selfish, so self-centered in an effort to make them—I guess the sixth richest is not good enough, the fifth richest isn't good enough. They want to be the richest because they are into making money and as much as they can. There is nothing wrong with that, except what they are doing with their money.

I know they say: Well, we gave money in—I think—New York City to cancer research. But what they have done to damage the National Institutes of Health is not possible to measure.

Here are the rules the multibillionaire Koch brothers want to play by: They should be allowed to say false and misleading statements about the Affordable Care Act, but we are not allowed to criticize them for it.

Just listening to the news, and I haven't heard anything from the White House directly, but I am told that yesterday, in 1 day, more people signed up for ObamaCare than the previous 3 months. People are anxious to have health insurance. They are anxious to have health insurance. I have been very satisfied that I and Members of my caucus and people around the country have been standing up to these moguls and their false, misleading, fearmongering ways.

It should be no surprise that these multimillionaire, billionaires, very, very rich, fifth richest people in the world have decided: What we will do is

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



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