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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Answer us, O God, when we call. Be gracious to us and hear our prayers. Look on our Nation with favor, for Your promises are sure. We thank You that so many of our Nation's Founders put their trust in You. Lord, make us worthy of this godly heritage.

May Your presence on Capitol Hill today so influence our Senators that the thoughts they think and the words they speak will honor You.

Don't be far from us, Lord, but continue to be our hope for years to come. Help us to remember how You have sustained us in the past as You provide for our daily needs.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Thank you, Dr. Black. Your prayers are wonderful.

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 PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PAUL). The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Today the Senate will resume consideration of the Keystone bill. There are up to 18 rollcall votes scheduled this afternoon on pend-

ing amendments to the bill. I want to commend Chairman MURKOWSKI and Senator CANTWELL for working with our colleagues to get literally dozens and dozens of amendments up and voted on in the 3 weeks we have been working on this bill.

Now it is time to get through the remaining amendments and vote up or down on passage of this bill before we leave for the week.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 272

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 272) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2015, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings on this measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be placed on the calendar.

KEYSTONE ENERGY DEBATE AND 529S

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, thanks to the bill managers' efforts that I just referred to, along with the years-long work undertaken by Members on both sides—Senator HOEVEN in particular—we expect this bipartisan bill to finally pass the Senate.

We expect the filibuster of good American jobs to soon come to an end. That is good news for the Senate. It is even better news for the people we represent. It would show their Congress is

capable of defying the powerful special interests that oppose Keystone so we can get things done for the middle class.

Constructing this infrastructure project would pump literally billions of dollars into our economy. It would support thousands of jobs, and it would do it all with minimal environmental impact. That is according to what we have heard from the President's own State Department. So it makes sense to get this bipartisan legislation to the President for his signature. We hope he will sign the Keystone jobs bill into law. The President should expect more good ideas to head his way.

That is the goal of this new Congress. We want to get Washington functioning again, and we want to pass commonsense ideas. The Keystone debate is showing how we can do both.

One other issue. I am certainly glad to see President Obama dropped his plan to make it harder for the middle class to save for college with 529s. I fought to ensure these plans were tax-free at the Federal level. Thanks to this incentive to save, literally millions of Americans use 529s to help prepare for college expenses. These are good plans that promote responsible savings. I am not sure why President Obama would have sought to undermine them in the first place, but it certainly is good to see the President coming around to Republicans' pro-middle-class view on this matter.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FUNDING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, 30 days from today, on February 27, the Department of Homeland Security, the

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



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