The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable Jon Tester, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable Jon Tester 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 TEMPOR

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable Jon Tester, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore.

MR. TESTER THEREUPON ASSUMED THE CHAIR AS ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The Acting Majority Leader, Senator Reid, spoke for 30 minutes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. Reid, Mr. President, this morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business for an hour, with the two chambers sharing the time equally divided. The majority will control the first half and the Republicans will have the final 30 minutes.

The Senate then will resume consideration of S. 1082, the FDA bill. For the information of the Members, there is a filing deadline at 10:30 this morning for second-degree amendments to the substitute amendment and the bill.

At 11:50 this morning, we will change proceedings with respect to the bill.

Yesterday, cloture was invoked on the committee substitute. I hope that at some point we will be in a position to agree to the amendments by unanimous consent or to get cloture for completing action on the FDA bill. There are still a number of amendments pending, and a preliminary review by all the Parliamentarians indicates some of them are arguably germane postcloture.

I would say on this matter, I informed the Republican leader yesterday we would not have any votes after 4 o'clock today, but that doesn't mean we would not be in session. If we don't get some agreement on running out the 30 hours, we will have to be in session until that time expires, around 10 or 11 o'clock tonight. Then we would in the morning come in and finish this FDA bill. Then it is my understanding—the Parliamentarian can correct me if I am wrong—that there would be a cloture vote on WRDA at that time, unless some agreement is worked out on that, to move to that bill.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1312

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings with respect to the bill.

The Acting Majority Leader, Senator Reid, spoke for 30 minutes.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1312) to amend the National Labor Relations Act to ensure the right of employees to a secret-ballot election conducted by the National Labor Relations Board.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings with respect to the bill.

The Acting Majority Leader, Senator Reid, spoke for 30 minutes.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The Acting Majority Leader, Senator Reid, spoke for 30 minutes.

MORNING BUSINESS

The Acting Majority Leader, Senator Reid, spoke for 30 minutes.

Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the first half of the time under the control of the majority and the second half controlled by the minority.