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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BARACK OBAMA, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, help us to be honest with ourselves and with one another. Search our hearts, know our thoughts, and purify our motives so that we will treat others with respect and honor.

Guide our Senators in their work. Help them to bear the cross of change and challenge and to refuse to be intimidated by the difficult. Give them the courage and humility to take their burdens to You and leave them. In all their striving, remind them that it is a greater blessing to give than to receive. Help them this day to know You more fully, love You more deeply, and serve You more faithfully.

We pray in Your hallowed Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BARACK OBAMA 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. BYRD).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 7, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable BARACK OBAMA, a Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM ACT OF 2007

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1348, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1348) to provide for comprehensive immigration reform, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid (for Kennedy/Specter) amendment No. 1150, in the nature of a substitute.

Dodd/Menendez amendment No. 1199 (to amendment No. 1150), to increase the number of green cards for parents of U.S. citizens, to extend the duration of the new parent visitor visa, and to make penalties imposed on individuals who overstay such visas applicable only to such individuals.

Sessions amendment No. 1235 (to amendment No. 1150), to save American taxpayers up to \$24 billion in the 10 years after passage of this act by preventing the earned-income tax credit—which is, according to the Congressional Research Service, the largest antipoverty entitlement program of the Federal Government—from being claimed by Y temporary workers or illegal aliens given status by this act until they adjust to legal permanent resident status.

Whitehouse (for Coburn/DeMint) modified amendment No. 1311 (to amendment No. 1150), to require the enforcement of existing border security and immigration laws and Congressional approval before amnesty can be granted.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be 1 hour for debate prior to a vote

on amendment No. 1311, as modified, and the motion to invoke cloture on the substitute amendment No. 1150, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

If no one yields time, time will be charged equally to both sides.

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I understand Senator COBURN will be here shortly and has some time set aside. He indicated he will yield some time to me. I will take a couple of minutes.

First, there are not any of my colleagues on the floor, but I assume the objection that was received last night to my request to dispense with the current business and make pending my amendment No. 1323 will still be in effect. I renew it, and if any change has been made with regard to it, I hope they will permit it, but I assume, based on what I know, that there is still an objection to bringing up that amendment.

I have quite a number of amendments, 10 or more amendments, that have been filed but cannot be made pending because it requires unanimous consent to move those amendments to pending status, and that means if cloture is granted later this morning, those amendments will not be on the list and cannot be given a vote.

I am not trying to run around and move something through to which I understand there is an objection, but I want to make the point that a number of Senators have a number of important amendments that are filed but cannot be made pending, and they will fall and not get a vote if we move forward with this premature cloture vote. So I strongly object to cloture. I believe it denies us the right to amend this bill which is seriously flawed.

I note that the particular amendment I want to bring up is named for Charlie Norwood, a Congressman from Georgia, who died recently. He was a tremendous patriot who shared my

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



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