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## Senate

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

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who alone rules the raging of the sea, we bow in awe and reverence before You. Even as we bow, we rejoice that Your mercy enables us to not be consumed in Your presence.

Strengthen our Senators for today's journey. In all the changing scenes of their lives, help them to bear in mind that You are an ever-present help for all their challenges. Lord, give to them the abiding awareness that nothing that disturbs their peace is too insignificant to bring to You. May these lawmakers live in the sure faith that Your love is stronger than all human rebellion and that You can empower them to live worthy of Your grace. At the end of this day, may they feel they have done their best and that You are pleased with their labors.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROLAND W. BURRIS 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 12, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROLAND W. BURRIS, a Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

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

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, we will be in a period of morning business for up to 1 hour. Senators will be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each during that time. The Republicans will control the first 30 minutes, the majority will control the second 30 minutes. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the credit card legislation. We will be in recess from 12:30 until 2:15 to allow for our weekly caucus luncheons.

One of the things I want to clear up, I announced yesterday that we would be having votes on Monday. To say I got a few phone calls is an understatement. When we announce that there

will be no votes, people schedule things. It is very difficult to undo those. By popular demand, we will not have any votes this Monday. I have spoken to the Republican leader. We think we can work together to accomplish what we need to anyway. We have a few things we need to do before we leave here next Thursday or Friday. I want everyone to know that the no-vote day is reestablished this coming Monday.

I filed cloture last evening on David Hayes to be Deputy Secretary of Interior. Under rule XXII, that vote will occur tomorrow morning. We may be able to work on an agreement to work around that in some way. We will certainly work with all colleagues to find out what we can do to work through that issue.

I have asked the Republican leader to speak first. I have something I have to do off the floor.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

### NO VOTE MONDAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I say to my good friend the majority leader, I am sure his decision to stick with not voting on Monday was greeted with great pleasure on this side of the aisle as well.

### GUANTANAMO

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, for the past several weeks, I have repeatedly expressed my concerns about the administration's decision to fix an arbitrary deadline on closing Guantanamo before it has a plan for the detainees. In my view, it was irresponsible for the administration to announce the closure of this safe and secure facility before it could assure 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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