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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Gracious and merciful God, You guide the humble and teach them Your way. What can keep us from praising You? Even amid life's toils and tears, we find tokens of Your care and providence. Thank You for the beauty of sunrise and the glory of sunset, for nourishing food and the support of family and friends. We are grateful for the joys of work well done and for even the challenges that strengthen our faith. Lord, we praise You for a nation of rich resources, high privilege, and enlarging freedoms.

Thank You also for our Senators and all who faithfully work with them. Today, gladden their hearts and reward them for their service. May they live this day as a never-to-be-repeated opportunity to glorify You. We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TOM UDALL 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, September 23, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, there will be a period of morning business for 90 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. The majority will control the first 45 minutes and the Republicans will control the final 45 minutes.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the Interior Appropriations bill. Last night, I filed cloture on the bill and the substitute amendment. As a result, Senators must have their germane amendments filed at the desk prior to 1 p.m. today.

I also want to remind Senators there is a reception and buffet dinner in S. 211 tonight—that is the LBJ room—at 6 o'clock to celebrate Henry Clay in the Senate.

There is a wonderful story about a 150-year-old painting that was discovered. It is a magnificent painting, right outside these doors, and we will talk a little about that tonight. It is historic and a great way to recognize the success of this country over the years.

We will need to be out of session at 5:30 for the Senate reception room to

be swept by the security folks. This event is hosted by the Senate Commission on Art, and our spouses will be expecting us to be on time.

I want to say also that 45 minutes of our time is going to be controlled by Democratic freshmen Senators. The American people are going to see here today the quality of the people who are new Senators—all successful prior to coming here, from many different walks of life, men and women. As I have watched these past 9 months the bringing of these men and women into Senate business, I am so impressed and understand how they did so well before coming here. Today, they are going to talk about health care.

As an example of the quality of our Senators—and I am not going to run through all the freshmen Senators—we have our Presiding Officer. The Presiding officer had a long and successful career before coming to the Senate as Attorney General of the State of New Mexico, as a long-time Member of Congress, and now as a Member of this body.

I had one of the pleasures of my life a month or so ago in being able to go to New Mexico and spend about an hour with the Presiding Officer's father—the historic Stewart Udall. What a wonderful visit we had. We talked about his brother Morris Udall, whom I had the good fortune of being able to serve with in the House of Representatives. I am sure that Morris Udall is beaming up in Heaven that his son Mark is now serving in the Senate.

What a quality group of people they are, and the American people are going to be seeing them in a few minutes as they talk about health care. I don't know what they are going to talk about with regard to health care, but I can almost bet that one of the things all these fine Senators are going to say is that we do not have as an option in health care to do nothing. The status quo will not work.

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



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