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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, lead our Senators to do Your will. As they find time to spend in Your presence, help them to discern what Your will is in ever clearer light. May the knowledge of the laws of sowing and reaping create in them a reverence for You, which is the beginning of wisdom. Give them courage in the midst of fear, faith in the midst of doubt, love in the midst of hatred, and hope in the midst of despair. Lord, build their interior strength until they reach unity in the faith and knowledge of You, attaining to the whole measure of Your fullness.

We pray in the Redeemer's 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, October 27, 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.

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 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. Following morning business, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Irene Berger, of West Virginia, to be U.S. district judge for the Southern District of West Virginia. There will be 60 minutes for debate equally divided and controlled between Senators LEAHY and SESSIONS or their designees. The Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 for the weekly caucus luncheons. At 2:20 p.m., the Senate will proceed to vote on the confirmation of the nomination. Upon disposition of the nomination, the Senate will turn to a period of morning business until 5:30, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. At 5:30, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 3548, the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act, with the time until 6 p.m. equally divided and controlled between the leaders or their designees. At 6 p.m., the Senate will proceed to vote on cloture on the motion to proceed to the unemployment bill. Therefore, Senators should expect a vote at 2:20 p.m. and another at 6 p.m. today.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1927

Mr. REID. Mr. President, S. 1927 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1927) to establish a moratorium on credit card interest rate increases, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to this bill at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

HEALTH CARE WEEK XV, DAY II

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, from the outset of the health care debate, Americans have had one key test for reform: Will it make health care cost less? Will it make health care cost less? Well, over the past few months, a number of independent groups have reached the conclusion that the legislation we have seen fails that test. In fact, it would make health care more expensive. So even aside from the issue of whether the so-called government option is in or out of the bill that hits the floor, I think it is fair to say it isn't what the American people were looking for.

Let's start with the independent, nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office. The CBO says the proposed fees and taxes on drug makers, medical labs, and medical device manufacturers would lead to higher health care premiums for Americans who get health insurance through their employers, and

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



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