

CONCLUSION OF MORNING
BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

RESTORING AMERICAN FINANCIAL
STABILITY ACT OF 2010

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 3217, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3217) to promote the financial stability of the United States by improving accountability and transparency in the financial system, to end "too big to fail," to protect the American taxpayer by ending bailouts, to protect consumers from abusive financial services practices, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid (for Dodd-Lincoln) amendment No. 3739, in the nature of a substitute.

Brownback further modified amendment No. 3789 (to amendment No. 3739), to provide for an exclusion from the authority of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection for certain automobile manufacturers.

Brownback (for Snowe-Pryor) amendment No. 3883 (to amendment No. 3739), to ensure small business fairness and regulatory transparency.

Specter modified amendment No. 3776 (to amendment No. 3739), to amend section 20 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to allow for a private civil action against a person that provides substantial assistance in violation of such act.

Dodd (for Leahy) amendment No. 3823 (to amendment No. 3739), to restore the application of the Federal antitrust laws to the business of health insurance to protect competition and consumers.

Whitehouse modified amendment No. 3746 (to amendment No. 3739), to restore to the States the right to protect consumers from usurious lenders.

Dodd (for Cantwell) modified amendment No. 3884 (to amendment No. 3739), to impose appropriate limitations on affiliations with certain member banks.

Cardin amendment No. 4050 (to amendment No. 3739), to require the disclosure of payments by resource extraction issuers.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 3789

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask for the regular order in regard to amendment No. 3789.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is now pending.

AMENDMENT NO. 4115 TO AMENDMENT NO. 3789

(Purpose: To prohibit certain forms of proprietary trading, and for other purposes)

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I offer a second-degree amendment which I send to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Oregon [Mr. MERKLEY], for himself and Mr. LEVIN, proposes an amendment numbered 4115 to amendment No. 3789.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator does not have the floor. The Senator from Oregon has the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HAGAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at 2 p.m. today, the Senate consider the Snowe amendment No. 3883 and a Landrieu side-by-side, No. 4075, and that they be debated concurrently for a total of 30 minutes, with the time equally divided and controlled in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the Landrieu amendment No. 4075, to be followed by a vote in relation to the Snowe amendment No. 3883; that no amendment be in order to either amendment prior to a vote; that upon disposition of these amendments, the Senate then resume the Whitehouse amendment No. 3746, as modified, and there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled with respect to the amendment; that upon the use of time, the Senate proceed to vote in relation to the amendment, with the amendment subject to an affirmative 60-vote threshold, and that if the amendment achieves the threshold, it be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that if it does not achieve that threshold, then it be withdrawn; that no amendment be in order to the Whitehouse amendment; that upon disposition of the Whitehouse amendment, Senator VITTER be recognized to call up his amendment No. 4003, which is in order to be called up per a previous order; that once the amendment is pending, it be modified with the language of the Pryor amendment No. 4087, and that as modified the amendment be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that once this agreement is entered, Senator BARRASSO be recognized to speak in morning business, with no amendments or motions in order during this period; that the cloture vote be delayed until disposition of the above-mentioned amendments; and that upon the conclusion of Senator BARRASSO's remarks, the Senate stand in recess until 2 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. I object and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SHELBY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The clerk will continue to call the roll.

The legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senator from Wyoming, Mr. BARRASSO, be recognized for up to 15 minutes; that following his remarks, the Senator from Ohio, Mr. BROWN, be recognized for up to 15 minutes; that following that, the Senate go into a recess at that time, after the two Senators finish their speeches, until 3:15 today. The two Senators are going to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor as someone who has practiced medicine in Casper, WY, since 1983, as an orthopedic surgeon taking care of many of the families in the great State of Wyoming. I come to you to talk about the health care bill that has been signed into law and to provide a doctor's second opinion about what is now the law of the land.

I come to you as someone who has worked very hard for many years, working with preventive medicine and early detection of problems as a medical director of the Wyoming Health Fairs, a program designed to give people information to stay healthy and keep down the cost of their care.

I come to you with a second opinion on what is now the health care law because I believe the goal of health care reform should be to lower costs, improve quality, and increase access to care.

Unfortunately, the new health care law, in my opinion, is going to be bad for patients, for providers—the nurses and doctors who take care of them—and for the payers, the people paying the bills—the patients as well as the American taxpayers.

I am concerned that the health care bill signed into law is going to increase the cost of care, provide less access to care, and is going to lessen the quality of the available care in this country.

I come to you with new information that has come to light on the health care bill and, specifically, an article that was in Politico this Monday, May 17, written by Kathleen Sebelius, the