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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 8, 2010, at 2 p.m.

## Senate

MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2010

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, let Your glorious Name be duly honored and loved by all who call You Lord. Send forth Your blessed spirit into our hearts that we may live worthy of Your love.

Bless our lawmakers and use them as instruments for good. Pour down Your wisdom upon them that they may ever promote liberty and justice for all. Strengthen their hearts against temptation, transforming them into more than conquerors by Your grace. Lord, make them one in the common cause for justice, righteousness, and truth.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK WARNER 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, June 7, 2010.

### To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

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

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

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

### FOCUSING ON THE CRISES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, first, I welcome everyone back. I hope they had a good break.

As a nation, our focus continues to be on the disaster in the gulf. This is a national tragedy, the full dimensions of which we still do not know. But one thing is clear: The top priority at this

point, as it should have been from the start, is to stop the leak. Americans are far less interested in how tough the administration plans to be after the leak is fixed than they are in fixing it. People want action more than they want accusations. There will be plenty of time to assess blame and to tighten regulations after the crisis is met. But weeks of blame has done absolutely nothing to plug the leak. Let's focus on the crisis at hand.

As we work to stem the crisis in the gulf, Congress cannot continue to ignore another pressing crisis—an exploding Federal debt that threatens our very way of life.

This week, the Senate will debate the deficit extenders bill the House passed just before the recess. Just for a little context, let's remind ourselves what this bill is. The original purpose of this bill was to give America's job creators an assurance that the longstanding tax benefits they are counting on to retain workers will not be pulled out from under them. But because Democrats cannot seem to resist any opportunity to use a must-pass bill such as this as a vehicle for more deficit spending, they have piled tens of billions of dollars in unrelated spending and debt on top of it, all at a moment when the national debt has now reached \$13 trillion for the first time in history. This is fiscal recklessness, plain and simple.

The time has come for hard choices. Americans see what is happening in Europe, and they are begging us to bring the debt under control, to cut it down before we face a similar fate here. Instead, Democrats in Washington just

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



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