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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:

Lord of heaven's armies, we come to You today seeking Your wise guidance. You asked us to embrace Your wisdom, for it is a treasure more precious than silver or gold. Help us to delight in Your sacred word and thrive like trees planted by streams of water. Lord, give us the faith to trust in You with all our hearts and not to lean only on our understanding. Encourage us to be doers of Your Word and not just hearers.

Bless our Senators and all Senate staff members today as they labor for our Nation and its citizens. Bless also those in harm's way and their families, and protect them from the dangers of the sea, land, and air, and from the violence of their enemies.

We pray in Your sovereign 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. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

Washington, DC, September 29, 2010.

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.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

THANKING DR. BARRY C. BLACK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before we get into the business of the day, I wish to take a minute, while the Chaplain of the Senate is here, Admiral Black, to comment on really a remarkable afternoon. Ted Stevens, who served in the Senate for many decades, was laid to rest yesterday at Arlington National Cemetery. It was strictly a military funeral—caissons came down the hill, the casket was over the grave.

The only speaking at the event was from the Senate Chaplain. It was very good, very spiritual. The setting was wonderful. It was a beautiful fall day. There were hundreds of people there. The Chaplain, with this booming voice he was given at birth, was able to do it without any amplification whatsoever. It was very nice.

The one thing that was stunning to everyone there was that the Chaplain said, "I am now going to recite," and he went through about eight or nine passages in the Bible. He named which passages he was going to recite—one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight—and then proceeded to do it without a note, without anything. It was remarkable. It reminded me so much of Senator Byrd because he also had that ability, the ability to remember. I am sure, for those of us there, it looked so easy for the Chaplain to do

that, but I am sure he prepared as he did as a young boy, learning these verses of Scripture for his mother and grandmother.

While he is here on the floor, I wish to express my appreciation to him. But the appreciation is from everyone who was there who is not capable of doing that because they don't have the ability to speak. So I say to my friend the Chaplain, we appreciate your spiritual leadership of the Senate and your remarkable qualities as a person.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Following any leader remarks, there will be a period of morning business until 10 a.m., with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

At 10 a.m., there will be 2 hours for debate on the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 39, with the time equally divided and controlled between the leaders or their designees. S.J. Res. 39 is a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of a rule relating to status as a grandfathered health plan under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

At around noon, the Senate will vote on that matter. If cloture is not invoked, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to the legislative vehicle we will use to complete work here on the continuing resolution. Senators will be notified when a vote on the continuing resolution is scheduled.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 until 2:15 today for our weekly party caucuses.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 388

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 119, H.R. 388, the Crane Conservation Act; that the bill be read three times, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any

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statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—
S. 859

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that we now move to Calendar No. 154, S. 859, the Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Act; that the bill be read three times, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements related to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

Mr. COBURN. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—
S. 529

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 117, S. 529, Great Cats and Rare Canids Act; that the bill be read three times, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the measure be printed in the RECORD.

Mr. COBURN. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—
S. 850

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to Calendar No. 270, S. 850, the Shark Conservation Act; that the bill be read three times, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT REQUEST—
S. 1748

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we move now to consideration of S. 1748, the Southern Sea Otter Recovery & Research Act, as reported by the Commerce Committee; that the committee-reported substitute amendment be considered and agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time, passed, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

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

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. COBURN. 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period of morning business until 10 a.m., with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I wish to speak in morning business and will confine my remarks to the objections I just made to the leader's motions.

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

SETTING PRIORITIES

Mr. COBURN. Mr. President, I am simply amazed that, when we are borrowing \$4.2 billion a day from our grandkids—that is what we are borrowing, \$4.2 billion a day—we are going to run a \$1.4 trillion deficit, and we have a unanimous consent request to move to things that spend more money, money we do not have that we are going to borrow from the Chinese or Russians to be able to pay for it, and we are going to spend the money overseas. There is no question that we should try to develop consensus in our body, but the first consensus we should have is the priorities of the problems that are facing this country. The problems that are facing this country are so big and so massive that our attention ought to be focused on those large problems, not on five separate bills that have been proffered for special interest groups. I don't understand the motivations. What I do understand is that the American people get it, even if we do not.

The fact that we are going to make attempts for political purposes to put bills that are not paid for and that will

add to the \$4.2 billion a day that we borrow on the floor when our economy is languishing because we continue to grow the Federal Government, continue to build regulations that affect and diminish the desire for people with capital to invest it in our economy—and we force people out of this country to build their plants and manufacturing facilities because of our regulations and tax codes, I do not understand.

My objections—I will not spend the time exactly outlining my objections to all these bills, but my overall objection is the priorities we are setting in the Senate. We ought to be about creating confidence so people will invest in this country rather than continuing to undermine that confidence with superfluous, well-meaning bills that are put up for political purposes instead of addressing the real problems that are facing our country.

Out of a courtesy to Senator REID and the agreement I just made with him, I will not offer my unanimous consent request at this time, but I will later today after he has had a chance to read them, on the following five bills:

The Veterans Second Amendment Protection Act. Mr. President, 140,000 veterans in this country have lost their second amendment rights. It has never been adjudicated that they were a danger to themselves or anybody else. Yet a bureaucrat somewhere has taken away their second amendment rights. This bill has come out of committee twice. Senator BURR is the lead sponsor on it. We treat veterans as second-class citizens when it comes to their second amendment rights. We ought to pass that. I will ask that later.

The Firearms Fairness and Affordability Act. We make firearms manufacturers pay their taxes every 2 weeks instead of quarterly like every other manufacturer in this country. But we penalize them. We ought to treat them the same as everybody else.

The earmark transparency bill gives one Web site so everybody in America can see where the earmarks are, who offered them, what the basis for them is, whether they were competitively bid. That is something America would like to see.

Then there are two tax cheat bills, for us as Members of Congress and our employees and then other Federal employees.

So I will not offer those unanimous consent requests at this time, but I will later in the day. Again, there are important, big problems in front of this country. We need to be about addressing those rather than special interest favors at this time.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent