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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Hear our prayers, O God. Attend to our intercession. You are the rock of our hope, our refuge in the time of storm. Forgive the things that blemish our personal lives, leading us away from Your standards of purity. Forgive us for every action that obstructs the coming of Your kingdom.

Today, help the Members of this body to experience the constancy of Your presence. Lord, fill them with the higher wisdom that leads a nation toward greatness. Show them what needs to be changed and give them the courage to do it. Sustain them by the radiant vision of the ultimate triumph of Your kingdom.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND 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, March 9, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND 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. Madam President, following any leader remarks, there will be a period of morning business until 10:40, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. The majority will control the first half and the Republicans will control the final half.

At 10:40 a.m., the Senate will recess for a joint meeting of Congress with the Honorable Julia Gillard, Prime Minister of Australia.

The Senate will reconvene at 12 noon and proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1, the Defense appropriations bill, which is the famous CR, H.R. 1, and the Democratic alternative.

At 3 p.m., Senators should expect two rollcall votes in relation to those two matters. Under an agreement reached yesterday, each proposal will be subject to a 60-vote threshold.

NOT JUST NUMBERS

Mr. REID. Madam President, on the news on the way to work this morning, I heard one Republican Senator who is part of the Republican leadership say he thought all Republicans would vote for H.R. 1, this job-killing—that isn't what he said, it is what I say—this job-killing, shortsighted bill. He said they would do it because of the numbers involved in it—the numbers involved in

it. I tell everyone, my friends on the Republican side, the American people are not as concerned about the numbers as what is in this bill, with those mean-spirited riders.

We are concerned about the numbers. The American people are concerned about the numbers. The President of the United States and Democratic Senators have agreed to address the numbers, and we will do that. We have done it in our alternative here today.

But this is not a bill about numbers. H.R. 1 is a mean-spirited bill that will cut the heart out of the recovery we have in America today. It goes after little children, poor little boys and girls who want to learn—they don't know what they want, but we want them to learn to read, to be able to learn. Head Start is a program that has been successful. We have a lot of poor people in Nevada. I wish we didn't, but we do. Head Start has been great for our communities. The National Institutes of Health, they are whacking that—the National Science Foundation. Our clean energy jobs, they are going after them. National laboratories. Where is the spirit of Pete Domenici—Pete Domenici, a long-time Republican Senator. He and I worked as chair and ranking member of that Energy and Water Subcommittee on Appropriations, trying to fund those very important labs. The labs do lots of good. Among others, they make our country's nuclear weapons safe and reliable. What has been done with this meat axe approach that they say is only numbers is not good for our country. I have heard my friend, the assistant majority leader, talk about what is happening to one of the smaller laboratories, Argonne, in Illinois. We have big ones at Livermore, at Sandia, Los Alamos, and other labs around the country that are some of the places where there is pure science—some of the few places in America today where we have pure science. What H.R. 1 has done, what they are trying to do to

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



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