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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, we desire to honor Your holy name. Thank You for blessing us to see the sunlight of a new day. Today, lift the minds of our lawmakers above the things that distract them from doing Your will. May their hearts be fully focused on fulfilling Your purposes as they strive to live for Your glory. Lord, give them the wisdom to use all their powers to serve You, seeking Your approval for each critical decision they make. Let Your favor delight them and Your presence sustain them in every season of life.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 3, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a

Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. SHAHEEN 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, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5 p.m. this evening. The Republicans will control the first 30 minutes, the majority will control the next 30 minutes.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 to allow for our weekly caucus meetings. We expect to have a rollcall vote this afternoon on the adoption of the resolution commending our Armed Forces and the intelligence community regarding the death of bin Laden. Senators will be notified when that vote is scheduled.

Additionally, there is a Senators-only briefing today—it is classified—on the U.S. operation that killed Osama bin Laden. That will be at 5 p.m. today in the Visitor Center.

CIA Director Leon Panetta will be there; Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff James Cartwright will be there; National Counter Terrorism Center Director Michael Leiter will be there; and Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Last night I filed cloture on the small business jobs bill, S. 493. Senators should expect a cloture vote to occur tomorrow morning. I ask unanimous consent that the filing deadline for all first-degree amendments be at 2:30 p.m. today for S. 493.

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

Mr. REID. Additionally, I also filed cloture on the nomination of John McConnell of Rhode Island to be a district judge for the District of Rhode Island. This vote may also occur tomorrow morning.

SBIR/STTR

The bill before this body today, the small business innovation bill, is the latest in a series of bills we have written to help small businesses grow. It supports a research and development program—the Small Business Innovation Research Program—that has helped tens of thousands of small businesses create jobs and shape the future.

This bill is an adaptation of the bill that President Reagan created 30 years ago. It is a continuation of that program. It has been proven that these investments work. It helped get great new ideas off the ground. For example, the electric toothbrush was invented with a small business grant, the satellite antenna that helped our first responders in Haiti, to technologies that keep our food safe and our military tanks from overheating in the desert. These are all the result of what this legislation has done over the years. There are success stories in virtually every State and nearly every industry.

Before the recess, we spent days working on an agreement to have votes on three amendments on this bill so we could move forward and finally pass it. We have voted on many amendments. This legislation started on March 10. It is now the first part of May. We have had some breaks in time because of our going back to our States, but there is no excuse for not completing this important legislation.

Every time we get one problem taken care of another Republican raises their head. The latest is Senator SNOWE. Of all people who should understand the importance of small business, it is the Senator from Maine, who was at one

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



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