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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, May 23, 2011, at 2 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, MAY 16, 2011

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOE MANCHIN III, a Senator from the State of West Virginia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, You are supreme over all the nations. With loyalty and love, You continue to guide us.

As our Senators deal with today's challenges, unite them in the common task of doing what is best for our Nation and world. May they see they can accomplish far more working together than they can by embracing disunity. When they are tempted to doubt, steady their faith. When they do not know what to do, give them a wisdom that can change and shape our times according to Your plan. Empower them to trust You more fully, to live for You more completely, and to serve You more willingly.

We pray in Your majestic Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOE MANCHIN III, 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 16, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOE MANCHIN III, a Senator from the State of West Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MANCHIN 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. Mr. President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for debate only until 5 p.m. today. There will be no votes today. The first rollover vote of the week will be around noon tomorrow on the confirmation of Susan Carney of Connecticut to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 1229 AND S. 990

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am told there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the titles of the bills for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1229) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to facilitate the safe and timely production of American energy resources from the Gulf of Mexico, to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct certain offshore oil and gas lease sales, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 990) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would object to any further proceedings with respect to these two bills.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The bills will be placed on the calendar.

CHOICE TO BE MADE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, imagine there is a choice for Congress to make. Here is the choice. There are two doors. We are standing before both of them, but we have to pick one of the doors. Behind door No. 1 is a choice that the Chairman of the Federal Reserve calls "catastrophic." The Secretary of the Treasury says if we open that same door, it could lead to a financial crisis "more severe than the crisis from which we are only now starting to recover." Let me repeat that, Mr. President. Chairman Bernanke says that opening that door would be "catastrophic." Secretary Geithner says it would lead to a financial crisis "more severe than the crisis from which we

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



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