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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.

Eternal God, who undergirds our weakness with Your strength, look with favor upon us today. With Your favor, we can face any future with the confident assurance that You control our destinies.

As our lawmakers wrestle with great issues, let Your presence provide them with the empowering experience of inner quiet and certainty. Guide them by Your enabling might that they may maintain their integrity.

Lord, give us all an inheritance, incorruptible and undefiled, that does not fade away.

We pray in Your sacred 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 as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 1, 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 leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2112. There could be as many as seven roll-call votes. Likely, there will only be six.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 until 2:15 p.m. for the weekly caucus meetings.

There will be a Senators-only national security briefing at 3:30 p.m. in SVC-217. I haven't had an opportunity to speak to the Republican leader, but we will discuss whether we should be out of session during that hour. It is a very important briefing. I will talk to my counterpart to determine whether we should be out of session during that important briefing.

Also, I want to put all Senators on notice that we are going to stick to our timelines on these votes. The first vote will be 15 minutes, with a 5-minute grace period. The rest of the votes will be 10 minutes, with a 5-minute grace period. If people are not here, we are turning in the vote. We have two very important caucuses today and we need to start them. We cannot have the votes dragging on forever. If you have committee meetings, walk out of them. If you have business meetings in your office with constituents, leave and come here and vote. I say to both Democrats and Republicans, we are going to turn in the votes at the end of the expired time. It is not fair to Senators who are here on time to wait for others. Senator MCCONNELL and I have

caucuses today that are extremely important. We need to have the full time. It is the only time we have all week to visit with our Senators about what is going on in the Senate.

MEASURES PLACED ON CALENDAR—H.R. 674 AND S. 1769

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will state the bills by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 674) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the imposition of 3 percent withholding on certain payments made to vendors by government entities, to modify the calculation of modified adjusted gross income for purpose of determining eligibility for certain healthcare-related programs, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 1769) to put workers back on the job while rebuilding and modernizing America.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I object to any further proceedings regarding these two bills, en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bills will be placed on the calendar.

REBUILD AMERICA JOBS ACT

Mr. REID. This week, Democrats introduced legislation that will put Americans back to work rebuilding this Nation's crumbling infrastructure. It will allow us to hire thousands of people to upgrade 150,000 miles of roadways, thousands of miles of train tracks, and modernize our Nation's runways and air traffic control systems. The Rebuild America Jobs Act will invest \$50 billion to ensure that our world-class economy has world-class infrastructure and get this economy working again.

This is not a new issue. It is something that is long overdue. A number of years ago, I conducted a hearing in the

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



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