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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by Chaplain Gerald Theroit, American Legion National Chaplain.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us join in the spirit of prayer.

Heavenly Father, we humbly gather in united prayer, giving thanks for Your blessings to this body. In Your holy Name, I ask that the wise use of the gift of reasoning that You have granted to all be strengthened within this Chamber so that the opportunities and paths to cooperation with just solutions will be realized.

Our Nation has been blessed with the establishment and the appreciation for a system of government that is unlike any other. As we have been blessed with the privilege of selecting a few to represent many, it is in them we place our trust that they will seek Your counsel and do what is best for us all.

Dear God, bless them during their research and in their deliberations, and have them to know that all things are possible through Your grace. As we enjoy the freedoms that we have and the privilege of supporting the way in which our government operates, we ask Your blessings on the shapers and protectors of these freedoms—our Congress, our President, our military, our first responders, and our Nation.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS 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, February 28, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COONS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

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

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12:30. The majority will control the first 30 minutes and the Republicans will control the second 30 minutes.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 today for our weekly caucus meetings.

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR—H.R. 1173

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am told H.R. 1173 is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows: A bill (H.R. 1173) to repeal the CLASS program.

Mr. REID. I would object to any further proceedings at this time to this piece of legislation.

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

MAKING THE SENATE WORK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last evening in an hour set aside at the request of Senators PRYOR and ALEXANDER, a very good conversation took place on the Senate floor.

Senators PRYOR and ALEXANDER are exemplary in trying to work things out; they are good legislators because they understand no side gets their way. I have been here a long time, and I have been fortunate to get pieces of legislation passed that I sponsored and worked toward, but I have never ever had a piece of legislation that I introduced that wound up with that piece of legislation; always there are changes. That is the legislative process.

That is what Senator PRYOR and ALEXANDER talked about yesterday evening. It was important. They talked about the need to bring bills to the floor. They focused on appropriations bills—and rightfully so. I am a long-time member of the Appropriations Committee, as is the Republican leader, and we understand the importance of working on these bills.

In the last number of years, we haven't been able to do individual appropriations bills, except on rare occasions. We have done these omnibus and minibuses, and we are trying to get away from that. I think the framework

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



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