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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, our hope for the years to come, as we prepare to turn to a new chapter in U.S. Senate history, we pause to acknowledge that You are our light and salvation. Lord, You are the strength of our lives, enabling us to move confidently toward the future.

Empower our lawmakers who are coming and going, sustaining them in all of their tomorrows. Bless also the many other laborers who will be leaving us, who faithfully served without fanfare. Lord, reward their fidelity with Heaven's commendation. As our Senators seek to respond to the voices of the American people, may they make it their top priority to listen to Your whisper. May pleasing You be their greatest desire. Let Your Kingdom come and Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MARKETPLACE AND INTERNET TAX FAIRNESS ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 467, S. 2609, the Marketplace Fairness Act.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 467, S. 2609, a bill to restore States' sovereign rights to enforce State and local sales and use tax laws, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 this evening. During that time, Senators will be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

At 5:30 p.m. the Senate will proceed to cloture votes on the nominations of Randolph Moss and Leigh Martin May; one is from the District of Columbia and the other is from the State of Georgia.

WORKING TOGETHER

Mr. President, I have always believed it wise to follow Will Rogers' admonition: "Don't let yesterday use up too much of today."

We have a lot of work to do and no time to dwell on the past. With just a few weeks left in this Congress—the 113th—there are a number of important legislative matters before this body that must be finished.

I congratulate the Republican leader who will soon become the new majority leader. The senior Senator from Kentucky and I have known one another for a very long period of time. We have been whips together. He was minority leader. I was minority leader and majority leader. We have been back and forth, so we understand these jobs. I appreciate his devotion to the State of Kentucky, to our country, and to the Senate. He knows I hold him in the

highest regard. I am ready to work with him in good faith to make this institution function again for the American people.

I saw firsthand how a strategy of obstruction was debilitating to our system. I have no desire to engage in that manner. I have been, as I mentioned before, and I mention again, the minority leader. I have been able to strike compromises with my Republican colleagues, and I am ready to do it again.

Regardless of how one may interpret last week's election results, it is clear the American people want us to join together to get things done for the middle class and all Americans, and we should be able to do that. After all, helping working families is not a partisan issue. Just last week we saw four very red States—Alaska, Arkansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota—vote to increase their minimum wages. Clearly, Republicans outside this building don't object to giving American workers a livable wage.

The minimum wage is just one example. There are other issues such as student debt relief for borrowers, pay equity for women, and a number of other issues that need to be addressed as well. There is absolutely no reason we can't work together on these issues and all issues so Democrats and Republicans can lend Americans the helping hand they so desperately need.

Although the desks in this great Chamber may move around and change, our duty to help working American families never will. Senate Democrats are ready to work in good faith with their Republican counterparts—whether it is today, tomorrow, January, no matter when it is—to help the middle class, and when we do that, we help all of our citizenry.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

LISTEN TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, last week the American people sent a

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



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