If Senators would prefer to amend it, they will have that opportunity this evening. Members of both parties will be able to offer amendments. I know many of our friends across the aisle are eager to do that. Republicans will have their chance too. There is a lot we expect to consider.

For instance, do Senators want to be seen supporting a policy that costs up to a million jobs or will they stand tall for American jobs instead? Will Senators support more tired tax hikes or will they support the jobs those higher taxes threaten to destroy? And do Senators want to raise the cost of energy or do they want to see the American people reap benefits of our energy revolution?

So tonight, the American people will have their voices heard again in the Senate under new management. They will see a new Congress that is back to work again and on their behalf. After considering all of these amendments, we will take a vote. When the budget passes, we will conference with the House. That is how this process has worked historically. It is what the American people have a right to expect now, and that is what we hope to see again shortly.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

THE VOTE-ARAMA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, before the Republican leader leaves, in the weather reports today, they forecast snow starting late today. Maybe that will calm down the generosity of the offering of amendments today, because snow is going to continue until tomorrow.

Mr. McCONNELL. I would say to my friend, the Democratic leader, the history of this exercise is that the lateness of the evening affects the number of amendments we have, and we will finish the process just as early as Members would like to finish the process.

I know the Democratic leader and I both look forward to it.

THE BUDGET

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate the cooperation between Senator SANDERS and Senator ENZI in our arriving at the point we are now. The Republicans have a totally different vision of what the country is and should be than we have, but the debate between these two good Senators has been civil. It has been very polite. It is the way things should happen around here. So I appreciate that very much.

The Republican budget makes clear the priorities of the Republicans. Republicans would get two-thirds of their cuts from low-income Americans, but they would not plug one single loophole for corporations or the rich—and I mean the mega rich—not a penny. They would double down on harmful sequestration, which is when automatic cuts occur across the board. We know how disastrous this has been.

For the 1 year it was in effect—take, for example, the National Institutes of Health—almost $2 billion they lost that 1 year.

On the floor is the senior Senator from the State of Illinois. I have heard him speak here on the floor about what a difficult time the people at NIH are having because they don't have enough money to do basic research. The sequestration that was put upon us last time caused the NIH to stop their research on a universal flu vaccine. Hundreds of thousands of people die around the world every year, and tens of thousands of people die every year in the United States because of flu. They were close to having a universal flu vaccine that would take care of this.

Sequestration is awful. It is part of the Republican budget. They are doubling down on this harmful sequestration on health, education, and even national defense.

Talk about a gimmick. This is a doozy, what they are trying to do with defense, to try to pretend they are going to put $38 billion more in the Defense budget. But it is pretend, because even looking at the Republican budget, it is not possible to do. Once even the Republican hawks look at this, they will say: Well, maybe we are not going to get that $38 billion.

So their budget has lots of gimmicks—lots of gimmicks. It has been written about all over the country in editorials from east to west and from north to south.

Fortunately for the country, the Republican budget will not become law.

Will the Chair announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET, FISCAL YEAR 2016

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 11, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 11) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2016 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2017 through 2025.

Pending:

Enzi (for Kirk) amendment No. 545, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to reimposing waived sanctions and imposing new sanctions against Iran for violations of the Joint Plan of Action or a comprehensive nuclear agreement.

Rounds/Inhofe amendment No. 412, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to prevent the Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service from engaging in closed-door settlement agreements that ignore impacted States and counties.

Rubio modified amendment No. 423, to increase new budget authority fiscal years 2016 and 2017 and modify outlays for fiscal years 2016 through 2022 for National Defense (budget function 050).

Daines amendment No. 388, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to the designation of national monuments.

Daines amendment No. 389, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to holding Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives accountable for failing to pass a balanced budget.

Moran amendment No. 356, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing health care to veterans who reside more than 40 miles driving distance from the closest medical facility of the Department of Veterans Affairs that provides the care sought by the veteran.

Roberts/Flake amendment No. 352, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to Federal employee performance awards.

Roberts amendment No. 462, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to over-the-counter medications.

Vitter amendment No. 515, to establish a spending-neutral reserve fund relating to requiring the Federal Government to allow states to opt out of Common Core without penalty.

Vitter amendment No. 811, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to ending Washington's illegal exemption from Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Gardner amendment No. 443, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to protecting privately held water rights and permits.

Coats/Warner amendment No. 595, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to improve cybersecurity.

Coats amendment No. 368, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to providing States the Medicaid flexibility they need to implement innovative reforms to improve care and enhance access for our Nation's most vulnerable.

Daines amendment No. 465, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to Second Amendment rights.

Daines amendment No. 387, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to postal reform.

Wyden/Crapo amendment No. 434, to provide for an adjustment to committee allocations for wildfire suppression funding.

Paul amendment No. 940, to increase new budget authority for fiscal years 2016 and 2017 and modify outlays for fiscal years 2016 through 2022 for National Defense (budget function 050) with offsets.

Sanders (for Murray/Alexander) amendment No. 697, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund for legislation that reforms and strengthens elementary and secondary education.

Sanders (for Murray) amendment No. 798, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund for legislation to allow Americans to earn paid sick time.

Sanders (for Cantwell) amendment No. 800, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund relating to a comprehensive approach to crude-by-rail safety.

Sanders (for Murray) amendment No. 812, to establish a deficit-neutral reserve fund to provide women with affordable access to comprehensive health care, including preventative services (such as contraception and breast cancer screenings), improve maternal health, and ensure that a woman has