United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 158 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2012 No. 15

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal spirit, You are our only safe haven. Give our Senators this day the courage and strength of spirit to continue to serve You and country. Reinforce within them the belief that with Your help, they can make a substantive difference in their Nation and world. May they refuse to cower in adversity, to compromise bedrock principles, or to turn their backs on those who need them most. Restore in them an equanimity of temperament that can dispel their doubts and fears.

Lord, today we thank You for the nearly four decades of faithful service by Alan Frumin, our Parliamentarian, as he prepares to retire.

We pray this prayer in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL 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. INOUYE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 31, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUYE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL 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 leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11:30 a.m. The majority will control the first half and the Republicans will control the final half. Following morning business, the Senate will begin consideration of the STOCK Act. Senators will be notified when votes are scheduled.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2041

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am told that S. 2041 is at the desk and 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 (S. 2041) to approve the Keystone XL pipeline project and provide for environmental protection and government oversight.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would object to further proceedings with respect to this bill at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar under rule XIV.

RETIREMENT OF ALAN FRUMIN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, for a few weeks in March 2010, Alan Frumin was one of the most talked about men in the entire city of Washington. The Senate was poised to send a historic health care reform bill to President Obama's desk for him to sign, but the usual procedural hurdles stood in the way.

Health care policy staffers were camped out in Alan Frumin's office studying Senate procedure and precedent. But despite the pressure, despite the national spotlight, Mr. Frumin remained calm and professional through what must have been one of the most intense moments of his career. For a very few weeks, every Capitol Hill reporter knew his name for sure. His respectable face was on every political news blog. Every political science professor talked about him. Even a few folks outside the beltway learned what on Earth was a Senate Parliamentarian. What do they do? He was briefly a Washington celebrity. But for those of us who work in the Senate, Alan Frumin has always been a star, even when very few of us knew who he was or what job he did. But it did not take us long after coming to the Senate to learn that quickly.

Alan has served in the Office of the Secretary of the Senate since 1977. In his 18 years as chief Parliamentarian, he has made countless difficult decisions with composure. He has a knowledge of complex rules that certainly would be deemed to be extraordinary. These are rules that are convoluted, and procedures are somewhat unique. But he understands every one of them.

He is, above all, impartial to a fault. I have been upset at Alan a few times when I wished he were not so impartial, but he has always been impartial. That is why he is the only Parliamentarian ever to be hired by both Democratic and Republican leaders to serve in this crucial role. In fact, he was retained in his position despite a change

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

Printed on recycled paper.