United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 158 WASHINGTON, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2012 No. 148

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 27, 2012, at 2 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2012

The Senate met at 2 p.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.

Almighty God, You give light to those who are in darkness. Shine Your light in this Chamber so that our lawmakers may do Your will. As they search for common ground, guide their feet into the way of peace. Lord, give our Senators a heightened sense of the special role You have for them to play in the unfolding drama of American history. Use them this day for Your glory.

Lord, we ask that You would comfort the families who lost loved ones in the tragic west Texas train collision.

We pray in Your sacred 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 26, 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.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, at 5:30 today, all postcloture time on S. 3525, the Sportsmen's Act, will have expired. There will be two rollcall votes at that time. The first vote will be on a motion to waive the Budget Act. The second will be on passage of the bill, as amended.

COMPROMISE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in the weeks since our country voted to return President Obama to the White House and a Democratic majority in the Senate, I have spoken often about compromise. I remain optimistic that when it comes to our economy, when it comes to protecting middle-class families from a whopping tax hike come January 1, Republicans and Democrats will be able to find common ground.

President Dwight Eisenhower, a Republican, once said:

> People talk about the middle of the road as though it were unacceptable. . . . There have to be compromises. The middle of the road is all of the usable surface.

So said Dwight Eisenhower. Too often Republicans and Democrats in Washington face off from our entrenched positions, never realizing the solutions to this country's problems rest not on one side of the aisle or the other but somewhere in the middle.

However, as we continue negotiating a responsible path forward, I remind everyone within the sound of my voice of one fact: This Congress is already one vote away from avoiding the fiscal cliff for middle-class families and small businesses. We could solve the greatest economic emergency facing the Nation today if only the House would consider the Senate-passed bill freezing tax rates for 98 percent of American families and 97 percent of small businesses.

As Thomas Jefferson said, ''We should not put off tomorrow what we can do today.'' Our legislation would give economic certainty to the middle class, protect important tax deductions for families and businesses, and restore

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

Printed on recycled paper.