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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, help of the ages past, hope for the years to come. Today, give our Senators special gifts of wisdom and understanding that they may uphold what is right and follow what is true. As they pursue Your purposes, make them instruments of justice and peace who foster mutual understanding and cooperative endeavors. Lord, help them to remember that our times are in Your Hands, for You are the light that never fails and the life that never ends. In all their relationships, private and public, lead them in the paths of righteousness, for Your Name's sake. Daily renew in them a sense of joy.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE 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. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U. S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 16, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE,

a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE 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, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each. Senator SALAZAR will be recognized to speak up to whatever time he wishes to take.

At 11 o'clock today, Senator-appointee TED KAUFMAN, will become a Senator, replacing Vice President-elect BIDEN, from the State of Delaware.

There will be no rollcall votes today. When the Senate convenes on Tuesday afternoon after the inauguration, we hope to clear a number of President Obama's nominations, but we do not expect any rollcall votes. If any nominations require votes, we will schedule them for the next day.

Yesterday, we were able to adopt the motion to proceed to the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. We have one amendment pending to the bill. Additional amendments are expected to be offered and debated. We hope to finish the bill on Wednesday.

I have spoken to a number of Senators, both on the Democratic side and Republican side. We are not encouraging amendments, but certainly we are not discouraging amendments. As to anyone who cares to offer an amendment, they should be prepared to do that. We asked for people to be ready to offer some today, and we did not

have any takers. But we would hope Wednesday people would be here bright and early to start offering amendments. There will be rollcall votes on Wednesday.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR KEN SALAZAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, in a few minutes, Senator SALAZAR will rise to give his final speech on the floor of the Senate. Parting is with such sweet sorrow. I have such great respect for this man we call KEN SALAZAR.

I spoke yesterday regarding Senator BIDEN, who will become Vice President of the United States next Tuesday. I also spoke about Senator CLINTON who, after her confirmation, will become Secretary of State. The accomplishments of Senators BIDEN and CLINTON are well known—two great Americans. The accomplishments and life of KEN SALAZAR are less known but no less remarkable; in fact, in most instances more remarkable.

KENNETH LEE SALAZAR is a fifth-generation Coloradan and a twelfth-generation American. His family is a remarkable story about what America is all about. His family settled in New Mexico 400 years ago and moved to Colorado's San Luis Valley in the middle of the 19th century, claiming some of the region's first water rights.

KEN SALAZAR grew up farming and ranching the same Colorado land his ancestors had for hundreds of years. This is real rural America, 300 miles from Denver. The ranch did not have electricity until 1982—no telephone, no television. Senator SALAZAR and his seven brothers and sisters were born to two American patriots. His mom Emma traveled to Washington by herself as a 19-year-old girl to do her thing in World War II. She went to work in the War Department here in Washington, DC, while KEN's father Henry joined the military and became a staff sergeant. He was so proud of that service in the military that he asked, when

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



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