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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, whose inward presence means cleansing, forgiveness, peace, and power, dissolve the barriers that keep our souls from You. Remove from our lawmakers the self-sufficiency that ignores their need of You and make their hearts receptive to Your plans. Lord, bestow upon them special gifts of wisdom and understanding that they may uphold what is right and follow what is true. Increase their faith, strengthen their judgment, and quicken their zeal for integrity and honor. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on them. Radiate Your hope through their labors, as they expect to see Your best for our Nation and world.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK L. PRYOR 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 2, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. PRYOR thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the budget resolution. Of the statutory time allotted to the budget resolution, 1½ hours remains. Upon the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate will proceed to a series of votes in relation to the pending amendments and any other amendments offered to the budget resolution. We expect those votes will occur around 11:30 a.m., give or take a few minutes.

Under an agreement reached last night, there will be 2 minutes for debate equally divided prior to each vote. Each vote after the first vote will be 10 minutes in duration. Senators should expect rollcall votes throughout the day and maybe even into the evening. Once we start, we have to finish this budget resolution. I encourage Senators to stay here. The first vote will be 15 minutes. After that, there will be 10-minute votes, and we are going to enforce that time. If Members are not here, they will not be counted. The clerks are going to be instructed to turn the votes in very quickly.

JOHN MCCAIN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, let me take a minute to say something because of my friend, JOHN MCCAIN. Every day I

come and open the Senate, we give the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. We do that because of the country and what that flag stands for. But I was struck today having JOHN MCCAIN in the Chamber. Really, he is representative of what that flag is all about—someone who not only comes from a lineage of people who have served our country, but this good man has served our country in so many different ways.

We came to Washington together in 1982. We came to the Senate together in 1986. I can remember while I was still in the House of Representatives I attended a prayer breakfast, and Senator MCCAIN was the presenter. I cannot do justice and I will not even try to describe the presentation he made about a Christmas celebration they had when he was a prisoner of war. He spent so much time in solitary confinement. He could have left the prison much earlier. He would not do that because his comrades were still there.

We take a lot of things for granted. Even though JOHN MCCAIN and I have disagreed on occasion on things political, one thing that will always be in my mind and my heart is people such as JOHN MCCAIN who represent what our country is all about.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

JOHN MCCAIN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the majority leader said it well. No one has done more for his country than JOHN MCCAIN. We are all privileged to be able to serve with him in the Senate.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I thank both leaders. I thank my friend from Nevada. He and I came to the House of Representatives together many years ago. I thank him for his leadership. As

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



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