



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2009

No. 125

Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable THOMAS R. CARPER, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

PRAYER

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

O merciful Lord, we thank You for the refreshment and accomplishments of our time away and for Your clear, shining inward light that directs our steps. May the Members of this body feel Your peace and power today. Restrain wandering thoughts and break in pieces those temptations that lead them away from Your will. Lord, join our Senators to Yourself with an inseparable bond of love, for You alone truly satisfy. Grant that their love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that they may be able to discern what is best, and may be pure and blameless when they stand before You.

Lord, this is the first time in nearly 50 years that the Senate will convene without Senator EDWARD KENNEDY as one of its Members. Thank You for his life and legacy.

We pray in Your sovereign name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable THOMAS R. CARPER 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, September 8, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable THOMAS R. CARPER, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CARPER 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 4:30 this afternoon, and Senators will be allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1023, the Travel Promotion Act, with the time until 5:30 equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. I designate Senator DORGAN to control the time on our side.

At 5:30, the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote on the Dorgan amendment No. 1347, which was provided for in an agreement reached prior to the recess. If cloture is invoked, upon the use or yielding back of the debate time, the Dorgan amendment will be agreed to and the Senate will proceed to vote on passage of the bill, as amended. That vote is expected to occur tomorrow.

MOVING AMERICA FORWARD

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I welcome my colleagues back to the Senate after an August work period that saw pas-

sionate and profound sadness across our country. Each of us has heard from our constituents over the past few weeks. In Nevada, I heard from citizens across my State who are ready for us to pick up where we left off. They are ready for us to get back to the hard work of legislating. They are ready for us to move forward on one of the most critical issues of our time and the life's cause of our late colleague, Senator TED KENNEDY, making it easier to afford a healthy life in America.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN HONOR OF THE LATE
SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now observe a moment of silence in memory of our friend and departed colleague, the late Senator EDWARD KENNEDY.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

[Moment of silence.]

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have to acknowledge that as I came into the Chamber this afternoon, I came upon Senator KENNEDY's desk, which is covered with the traditional black velvet, with the flowers and his favorite poem on the desk. I read the poem and a tear came to my eye.

I cherish the time that I can spend with the people of Nevada when I go home and talk with them and learn from them. The people in Nevada care about the volatility of our turbulent economy.

Nevadans see as clearly as anyone in America that we are going forward. In fact, we are getting back on our feet after long years of neglect. They watched as Wall Street went wild, foreclosures reached record highs, and jobs vanished into thin air. But thanks to the leadership of President Obama, the hard work of the Congress, and the unwavering determination of our constituents, they now are seeing these wounds beginning to heal.

This Senate has risen to the challenges we inherited. In the face of unprecedented conditions, we responded

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S9101