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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEFF MERKLEY, a Senator from the State of Oregon.

PRAYER

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

Eternal Spirit, the fountain of all wisdom, we bring our fragmented lives into Your presence, seeking Your wholeness. We bring our restless spirits to You seeking Your calm strength. We bring You our transient thoughts, seeking the permanence of Your gracious providence.

Today, remind our lawmakers that only as we lose ourselves in something higher can we truly find ourselves. To this end, give them great causes to embrace and a great faith to energize their labors. Lord, lead them from doubt and disillusionment, from cynicism and frustration, to a confidence that in everything You work for the good of those who love You. Give them the light to see the way You desire them to take through today's perplexing circumstances.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEFF MERKLEY 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 9, 2009.

To the Senate:

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

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MERKLEY 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 for an hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each. The majority will control the first 30 minutes and the Republicans will control the second 30 minutes. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1023, the Travel Promotion Act. The Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 to allow for the weekly caucus luncheons to meet. We hope to reach an agreement to yield back some of the debate time on the travel promotion legislation prior to 4:30 p.m. Senators will be notified when that vote is scheduled. Upon disposition of the travel bill, the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote on the executive nomination of Cass Sunstein to be Administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs at the Office of Management and Budget. This week, we are also going to go to the Transportation appropriations bill, and we will continue to work through the important appropriations process.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to take a few minutes this morning to bring to the attention of the Senate an article in the September 7 Newsweek magazine. This is the language from Newsweek. I am not using the words; these are their words. There are two pages. "The Five Biggest Lies in the Health Care Debate." Remember, it is the five biggest, but there are a lot of them that have been going on. These are the five biggest lies, in the estimation of the publishers of this multi-million-dollar distributed magazine:

To the credit of opponents of health-care reform, the lies and exaggeration they're spreading are not made up out of whole cloth—which makes the misinformation that much more credible. Instead, because opponents demand that everyone within earshot (or e-mail range) look, say, "at page 425 of the House bill," the lies take on a patina of credibility. Take the claim in one chain e-mail that the government will have electronic access to everyone's bank account, implying that the Feds will rob you blind.

That is a falsehood. It is not in any bill, on any page, or anyplace. It is just made up, and it is carried on talk radio, blogs, and cable TV all over America. It is false, not true.

One of the things I found in going home is that people are concerned—old people, because we get sick when we get old—they won't be able to get any chemotherapy. In this magazine, No. 1, it says that "the threat that Medicare will give cancer patients over 70 only end-of-life counseling and not chemotherapy" is a lie. It is not me saying that, it is Newsweek.

Another one is that illegal immigrants will get free health insurance.

The House bill doesn't give anyone free health care.

So illegal immigrants getting free health insurance is a lie. That is one of the five biggest lies.

Another one is that death panels will decide who lives. This is a dandy that started and got legs because of the resigned Governor of Alaska.

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



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