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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK UDALL, a Senator from the State of Colorado.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Father of all, we praise and glorify Your Holy Name. You are the fountain of life, the source of all goodness, and the center of our joy.

Today, fill our lawmakers with Your blessings. Bless them with the courage to follow You as they maintain confidence in the power of Your providence. Bless their labors that they will live to see a harvest of justice and peace in our Nation and world. Bless their family members with health and safety, for You are our refuge and strength. Bless us all, that one day we may dwell in Your house forever.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK UDALL 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, October 28, 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 UDALL, a Sen-

ator from the State of Colorado, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado 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, there will be a period of morning business for up to 2 hours, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. The majority will control the first hour, the Republicans will control the second hour. Following morning business, the Senate will proceed to the motion to proceed to H.R. 3548.

I would direct a question to the Chair. What time does the 30 hours postcloture run out?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The time expires at 12:26 a.m. Thursday.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I hope we can work something out with the Republicans. We are going to have that vote as soon as we can. I am sorry that we might have to do it in the morning. I think we should be able to avoid that. The vote was held later than I wanted it because a Senator was quite ill. I hope we can work something out. We have bipartisan support, and that is just not words.

We have significant numbers of Republicans and Democrats who want to do two things—one, to do something about the first-time home buyers tax credit. There has been general agreement by a significant number of Senators, Democrats and Republicans, to get this done. The legislation is before

this body now. We also have the loss carryback, which is extremely important for businesses at this time, also widely agreed upon. It was originally sponsored by Senator BUNNING, and now Senator BAUCUS and others have agreed to this—not two or three Senators but significant numbers on both sides. We could get those done. We have given the Republicans a request to do it in 2 hours, and Senators said they don't even need that much time to get this done.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, would the majority leader yield?

Mr. REID. I would be happy to yield.

Mr. McCONNELL. I would just say to my friend, we have a lot of fights around here over things we disagree on, but on this particular measure, this is an unnecessary impasse that we have. We have come very close to a very modest number of amendments. My side would be more than happy to accept time agreements on all of the amendments. I want to second what the majority leader says, that I hope we can indeed work out an agreement for a modest number of amendments with time agreements and wrap up this bill because I certainly share his view that most Members support the underlying measure and the additions to which the majority leader has referred.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, first of all, the other amendments are vexatious. They are argumentative. They are not germane. They are not relevant to this legislation. But it seems that this year, every time we get where we try to get something done, we have had stalling. We had a Senator out here yesterday who had done the work to find out how many times we have been stopped from doing things. Almost 60 times on absolute filibusters we have had to invoke cloture and 30-some-odd times on just objecting to legislation going forward.

The other amendments the Republican leader has suggested are amendments that are not related to this legislation, and there is wide disagreement from Republicans and Democrats.

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



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