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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, at 12.30 p.m.

## Senate

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2010

The Senate met at 2:01 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, hope for all who seek You, strength for all who find You, lead our lawmakers through the turbulence of another week. Deliver them from anxiety, fear, and perplexity, as they become ever more aware of Your presence. Surprise them today with some unexpected gift of Your grace, providing them with some needed insight and guidance, some vision of new possibilities, some fresh resource of courage and strength. Guide them to seek first Your kingdom and righteousness, so that everything they need You will provide.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK R. WARNER 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, March 8, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

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

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

### HEALTH CARE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, for more than a year now, Democrats in Washington have been focused—some

would say fixated—on making dramatic changes to the American health care system as we know it.

It is an open debate as to whether spending so much time and energy on this issue was in the best interest of the public at a time of record unemployment and a need to address jobs and the economy. But what is not open to debate is, the plan they came up with was fundamentally flawed—that it focused too much on expanding the size and cost of government and not enough on the core problem with our health care system, which is cost.

This is why Americans have been telling Democrats in Washington to scrap their plan and start over. This is why so many Americans are so frustrated with government right now. The administration says we need to pass its health spending bill to show Americans government still works. Americans are saying the opposite. They are saying the first thing Washington can do to show it is working is to listen to what the public is saying, to scrap this bill and to start over.

Unfortunately, Democratic leaders in Congress are not interested. They are still clinging to the same old bill and the same old process Americans rejected last year. They are more determined than ever to jam their bill through Congress by any means necessary.

So over the next few weeks, we are going to see a replay of the same kind of arm-twisting and deal-making we saw in the runup to Christmas. I say we are going to see it, but in reality we will not see any of it. We will have to read about it—the deals and the arm-

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



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