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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 14, 2010, at 2 p.m.

## Senate

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2010

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CARTE P. GOODWIN, a Senator from the State of West Virginia.

### PRAYER

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

Eternal Lord God, who comforts us in all our troubles, be near to our lawmakers today. When they feel tired or unappreciated, remind them that You keep a record of their labors and will reward them for their faithfulness. May the realization that You are close beside them keep them from becoming weary in their efforts to keep America strong. As they remember that pleasing You should be their first priority, fill them with a peace the world can't give or take away. Lord, lead them into a future of faith, love, and peace. We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CARTE P. GOODWIN 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. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, August 3, 2010.

### To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CARTE P. GOODWIN, a Senator from the State of West Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,  
President pro tempore.

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

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

### NOMINATION OF ELENA KAGAN TO BE ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Elena Kagan, of Massachusetts, to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, while we continue working this week to create

jobs and finish the unfinished business of this work period, we will also turn to the nomination of Supreme Court nominee Elena Kagan.

Giving the President the Senate's advice and consent, as prescribed by the Constitution for a lifetime appointment to the highest Court in the country, is one of this body's most solemn obligations.

Chairman LEAHY and Ranking Member SESSIONS oversaw, through the lengthy process, very thorough and respectful confirmation hearings. All of them were fair and I think were probative. I thank them both for their leadership.

Several Senators have already made known how they will vote on Ms. Kagan's nomination. Those Senators and many others will come to the floor in the next few days to explain their positions. I will be one of them speaking in support of this exceptional nominee. I will certainly give her my vote.

As the debate moves to the Senate floor and as we move toward a final vote, I look forward to a continuation of the passionate but civil discussion we have seen in the committee thus far. In this respect, perhaps we can draw inspiration from Ms. Kagan herself. In her confirmation hearing last year for the position she currently holds—as our Nation's Solicitor General, that is our Government's lawyer in cases that come before the U.S. Supreme Court—Ms. Kagan testified that one of the attributes she would bring to the job was an “understanding of how to separate the truly important from spurious.”

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



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