



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 157

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2011

No. 29

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God of time and eternity, we come to You not because we are perfect but because we trust Your mercy and kindness. By Your grace, we are able to triumph over evil, living no longer for ourselves alone but for You. Give our Senators a vision of the goals that produce righteousness, honor, justice, understanding, and peace. Empower them to serve the less fortunate, to bear the burdens of freedom, and to labor for Your glory. Lord, help them to know the constancy of Your presence, to give primacy to prayer as they work. Give them the gifts of Your light and love.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN 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, March 1, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. SHAHEEN 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. Madam President, following any leader remarks, there will be a period of morning business for an hour. Senators will be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each during that period of time. The majority will control the first 30 minutes and the Republicans will control the final 30 minutes. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 23, the patent reform bill. The Senate will recess from 12:30 until 2:15 to allow for our weekly caucus meetings. Senators should expect rollcall votes in relation to amendments to the patent reform bill throughout the day.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

I ask unanimous consent that Senator TOOMEY of Pennsylvania be permitted to speak as in morning business at 2:15 p.m. today for up to 15 minutes in order to deliver his maiden speech in the Senate.

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

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 1

Mr. REID. Madam President, I understand that H.R. 1 is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1) making appropriations for the Department of Defense and other departments and agencies of the Government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings on H.R. 1 at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

Mr. REID. Madam President, we have before us today an extremely important piece of legislation. It is called the America Invents Act of 2011. The reason I emphasize 2011 is because it has been almost 60 years since we had the last meaningful reforms of the Nation's patent system. We have tried on many occasions in recent years to get this bill on the Senate floor. The Judiciary Committee has reported out a number of bills over the years, and we have taken no action here on the Senate floor for a number of reasons. But it is now on the floor. There are a couple of issues to which our attention will be directed.

I have received calls from a number of Senators who have amendments they want to offer that are in relation to this bill, only two of which I think are really meaningful, but I am sure there are others. I hope we can move through this. One of the first amendments filed is one that has nothing to do with patent reform, and we will dispose of that.

I think it is important to understand that this bill, if we do it right, will create millions of jobs. Some estimates suggest literally millions of new jobs could be created through this reform. Not every patent creates a job or generates economic value. Some are worth

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



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