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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.

Lord God Almighty, how great and wonderful are Your deeds.

Bless today the many people who help our Senators do their work. Lord, we thank You for the many members of their staffs who help them succeed. We thank You for our pages and the significant work they do. We are grateful for those who work without fanfare to keep the legislative process going. Keep these faithful servants of freedom from growing weary in their labors. Remind them that their harvest season will come. May they never forget that faithfulness is more important to You than success. Guide them with the light of Your truth until one day they will experience the joy of hearing You say, "Well done."

We pray in Your great 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, April 5, 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 ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, following any leader remarks, there will be a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half. Following morning business, the Senate will proceed to consideration of H.R. 4, 1099 repeal, with 1 hour of debate. Senators should expect two rollcall votes around noon on the Menendez amendment and passage of H.R. 4, as amended, if amended. We will recess following the votes until 2:15 p.m. for the weekly caucus meetings. We are working to reach an agreement on the small business bill and will notify Senators when additional votes are scheduled.

I am standing in for Majority Leader REID, who has been called to the White House for the meeting with the President and the leadership, the Speaker and the leadership of the House of Representatives. The object of this is obviously to avert a government shutdown.

I listened carefully to the prayer from the Chaplain this morning. I don't know if we will need divine inspiration or divine interjection into this matter, but whatever it will take, I hope people of good will can come to an agreement. We are close. I don't think it is good for us as a government or as a Nation to see a shutdown of basic services that

may cause inconvenience and hardship across America.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

PAUL RYAN BUDGET PLAN

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, today the chairman of the House Budget Committee, Congressman PAUL RYAN, is releasing a serious and detailed plan for getting our Nation's fiscal house in order. Congressman RYAN's plan would put us on a path to reducing the national debt, it would strengthen the social safety net so we can keep the promises made to the Nation's seniors, it proposes a way for Washington to start living within its means, and it will repeal last year's health care law which will raise health care costs, lead to fewer jobs, and which Americans have rejected. Congressman RYAN is presenting a plan, in other words, to address our most pressing problems head-on at a moment when the President and other Democratic leaders simply refuse to do so themselves. He is doing what his constituents have sent him here to do.

Anybody can say our Nation's problems need to be addressed, but history will show that Chairman RYAN is one of those who actually stepped up to do

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



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