



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 157

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2011

No. 131

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Lord God, You are holy and inhabit the praises of Your people. We are thankful that those who seek You will not lack any good thing. Help us to make You our source of hope, depending on Your providence and trusting Your mighty arms to save us. As our lawmakers seek to serve You by making choices that honor You, purify their intentions that they will say what they believe and will act consistently with their speech. Keep them aware of how their words and deeds affect the good fortune of the lives of those in need.

O God, You are our hiding place. And in these challenging days, we are depending on You to protect this Nation from trouble. You are the one who puts the songs of deliverance in our hearts.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 7, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND 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 leader remarks, if any, there will be an hour of morning business, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to the America Invents Act.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 until 2:15 for our weekly party conferences. At 2:30, there will be 30 minutes of tribute to the late Senator Mark Hatfield of Oregon, and I would indicate that if people are unable to come during that 30 minutes, I would solicit their statements so that we can put them together, as we often do in these situations, so they are in that nice little booklet people can look through at a later time.

I would say, Madam President, that I had the good fortune of being able to serve with Mark Hatfield—a treasure of a man. We have had great leaders from Oregon, but certainly he was equal to any of them—a man of great character who was not bound by party. He was bound by what he thought was best for this country.

I had the good fortune to travel on a codel he led. It was a wonderful trip, led by this great statesman. We went into the Soviet Union—Mongolia—and saw Lake Baikal and found that the Soviets had not ruined this great Alpine glacier lake. There are only two in the world. One is in Nevada and California—we share Lake Tahoe. But Lake Baikal is one thing the Soviets didn't ruin. Anyway, it was a trip I will always remember, not only where we went but who led that trip.

I will give a more complete statement at a later time regarding Mark Hatfield, a man for whom I had great respect and admiration. He was really a role model, in my mind, for what a Senator should be.

We expect to be in consideration of the patent bill today. I hope the Republicans will let us get on that. It is too bad we had to move to proceed to it, but we did. I hope we don't have to use the full 30 hours, and I hope I don't have to file cloture again. I hope there are a couple of amendments and then we can get rid of this bill as early as possible.

We have a lot to do. We have so much to do in this work period—the highway bill, the patent bill, FEMA, and trade issues. We need to complete all those matters before we leave here in just a few weeks. We have to take a break because of the holidays coming up toward the end of this month.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.J. Res. 66

Mr. REID. Madam President, I understand H.J. Res. 66 is at the desk and is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the joint resolution by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 66) approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

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



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