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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.

Eternal God, who fulfills the desires of those who have reverence for Your name, let Your will be done today on Capitol Hill. Give our Senators a clear understanding of Your providential purposes, so that they will not deviate from Your desired plan. Inspire them to seek Your guidance and depend on You to bring them through the myriad challenges of our time. Lord, infuse them with a spirit of reconciliation that will break down divisive walls, bringing harmony and cooperation. Strengthen them for this day's journey, as Your spirit empowers them to faithfully honor You in their thoughts, words, and deeds.

We pray in Your sacred 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 bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, September 13, 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.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I would note the absence of a quorum.

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

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour. The majority will control the first half and the Republicans will control the final half. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.J. Res. 66. This legislation is the vehicle we need to do the FEMA funding. The Senate will recess, as we always do on Tuesdays, from 12:30 to 2:15 for our weekly caucus meetings.

### FEMA FUNDING

Mr. REID. Madam President, this week the Republicans sent a message to victims of the devastating hurricanes, wildfires, and tornados. That message was "tough luck."

Last night, we tried to move forward on a measure that would grant the

Federal Emergency Management Agency additional funding to help communities devastated by natural disasters. This ought to be the least political issue we have, whether to reach out a helping hand to our friends and neighbors in a time of need.

These unfortunate people have lost friends and loved ones. They have lost their homes, businesses, and livelihoods. They have been destroyed by acts of God. I went over this with my wife last night, and she said: Why would you use a term like that? Well, in the law, that is what these floods, these terrible windstorms, and these fires are—they are acts of God. We can't plan for them; they just happen. In the law, that is the term of art we use.

These people have lost loved ones and friends, and their property is underwater or literally reduced to rubble. It is in our power to help them. It is an obligation we have to help them. Last night, Republicans overwhelmingly voted to prevent us from coming to their aid. They prevented us from getting disaster aid to American families and businesses that need it now. These unfortunate people, I repeat, don't need the help next week or next month or 6 months from now, they need it now, today. It is unthinkable that Republicans would waste time catering to the radical tea party while innocent victims of devastating disasters hide their time. One of the leaders of the tea party, a Member of the House of Representatives, has said very publicly that we should get rid of FEMA. But this is not a nation that stands idly by while our fellow Americans suffer. We are a nation of action. That is what we have always been. When it is in our power to aid a fellow citizen, we have always done what it takes. We have done it without politics, without pandering, without a moment's delay—until today.

This year the United States has dealt with more than its usual share of terrible natural disasters. Hurricane Irene

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



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