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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the world and all that is in it belong to You. You lay its foundations in the ocean depths by the power of Your voice. Through Your redemptive work You brought peace on Earth and goodwill to humankind.

Lord, we need Your peace today on Capitol Hill. Release Your peace so that our lawmakers will find purity of motives, integrity of actions, and unity of purpose. Teach our Senators Your ways. Make yourself known to them today.

Lord, we place our reliance squarely on Your reliability as we pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK R. WARNER 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, December 16, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a

Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER 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. Following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business. The majority will control the first 30 minutes and the Republicans will control the next 30 minutes.

We expect to consider the omnibus spending bill within the next 24 hours or 36 hours. We also continue to work on an agreement to consider the payroll tax compromise. The Senate will be notified when votes are scheduled.

As a reminder to all Senators, cloture was filed on the motion to proceed to H.R. 3630, the House Republican payroll tax bill. Unless an agreement is reached, that vote will occur tomorrow morning.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 3094

Mr. REID. Mr. President, H.R. 3094 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

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

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3094) to amend the National Labor Relations Act with respect to representation hearings and the timing of elections of labor organizations under that Act.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will

be placed on the calendar under rule XIV.

Mr. REID. Would the Chair announce morning business, please.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein up to 10 minutes each, with the first hour equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes and the Republicans controlling the next 30 minutes.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. 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.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. 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.

UNRESOLVED ISSUES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I hope we are drawing to a close. We are not certain; there are still some unresolved issues. But the Omnibus appropriations bill is moving forward, and it will fund our government for the remainder of this fiscal year. It has been a long and arduous process.

We started by passing three appropriations bills in the Senate, then when we tried to call the next three we ran

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



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