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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, omnipotent, You are above all nations. Take our lives and use them for Your purposes. Cleanse our hearts, forgive our sins, and amend our ways as Your transforming grace changes our lives.

Today, make our Senators true servants of Your will. In these challenging times, give them the wisdom to labor for justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with You. Keep their minds and spirits steady as they strive to do Your will.

We pray in Your sovereign 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, March 7, 2012.

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. GILLI-

BRAND, 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, the Senate will be in morning business for 1 hour. Republicans will be in control of the first half, Democrats the final half. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the surface transportation act.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

I ask unanimous consent that there be a recess at 5 p.m. and that be extended until 6:30 p.m. to accommodate Senators on the briefing.

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

Mr. REID. Madam President, we are having a briefing this evening at the request of Senator MIKULSKI, who is a long-term member of the Intelligence Committee, to have an actual demonstration of why we need to pass the cybersecurity bill. All Senators should be there, and that is why we asked for the recess.

BLOODY SUNDAY

Mr. REID. Madam President, 47 years ago today a group of 600 freedom-loving men and women set out on a march from Selma, AL, to Montgomery, AL. The purpose of the march was to call for an end to discrimination and violence against African Americans.

Among those peaceful protesters was a young man by the name of JOHN LEWIS, now Congressman JOHN LEWIS. His life has been one of truly a great civil rights leader, outstanding legislator, and a patriot beyond excellence.

Only 6 blocks from the church where the march began, they were met at Edmund Pettus Bridge by police dogs, firehoses, and clubs. The terrible violence that day, known as Bloody Sunday, was broadcast across the country.

March 1965 marked a turning point in the civil rights movement, as Americans cried out against the injustice and bloodshed they saw on television. Later that month about 25,000 courageous souls finally completed that 12-mile march from Selma to Montgomery that started on Bloody Sunday, and 6 months later President Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

A year ago I was privileged to lock arms with Congressman JOHN LEWIS and Congressman Jim Claiborne, two men whom I admire deeply, as we reenacted the march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. It was really a humbling experience as JOHN LEWIS, with throngs of people—but we were together—explained to me what he remembered from that day:

As we were starting up the bridge there was a drug store that doesn't exist anymore, but a lot of whites were gathered there. They were, of course, up to mischief.

JOHN LEWIS had on his back a backpack—they were not very common in those days—he had a backpack on his back. He thought perhaps he would be arrested, as he had been many times, and he would have something to read while he was in jail. He had a book and an apple in that backpack, but, of course, he was beaten very badly, and no one will ever know what happened to the backpack and the apple and the book.

It was really a humbling experience—I repeat, one I will never forget. On this day, I think we should all pause to

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



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