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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Lord God Almighty, the Psalmist tells us, "You have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or You brought forth the Earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting to everlasting, You are God!"

On this first day of spring, we applaud Your creative genius and relish the beauty of this land. We are so thankful for Your love and grace.

Lord, we depend on You to make known to our Nation's leaders Your plan to prosper us and to give us a future and a hope. Move in Your mighty power and restore in our Senators a faith in the wisdom of Your Word. Inspire and equip them to seek Your wisdom and to pray for Your favor as we align ourselves with Your perfect will.

Restore faith to the fearful, joy to the broken-hearted, and comfort to the afflicted. We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS 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. INOUYE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 20, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUYE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COONS 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. Mr. President, every morning I go out to do my exercise. This morning I started out the door and there was a crash of thunder and lightning, so I decided to do my exercise inside. When I got into the gym, I could watch TV and I could see these storms in another part of the country—really violent storms. When I got back to my house, my wife indicated that Senator SCHUMER called. They were stuck on the tarmac in New York, so I knew at that time we were going to have some problems here with scheduling.

Following leader remarks this morning, there will be a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half. Following morning business, the Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 3606, the capital formation bill. The filing deadline for all second-degree amendments to the Reid substitute and the Cantwell amendment is 11 o'clock today.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

The reason I am mentioning the storm situation is the votes we had

scheduled for 11:30 today are going to have to be moved to this afternoon, because we have a number of people who can't be here, through no fault of their own. So I ask unanimous consent that the cloture votes that are currently scheduled to occur at 11:30 now begin at 4 p.m. this afternoon; that if cloture is invoked on an amendment or the bill, postcloture time be counted as if cloture were invoked at 12 noon today; and that the recess at 12:30 be until 2:15 to accommodate the weekly caucus meetings.

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

Mr. REID. The official photograph was expected to be today. We will try to do it later this afternoon. We will put everybody on notice about that, and I will consult with the Republican leader about the votes and about the other matters we are going to have to reschedule.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2204

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a second reading of S. 2204.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2204), to eliminate unnecessary tax subsidies and promote renewable energy and energy conservation.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings on this bill at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, for many years now the Ex-Im Bank, which is referred to as the Export-Import Bank, has helped American companies grow

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



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