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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Lord, You have given us a world full of rich resources. Make us responsible stewards of Your generous gifts. Help us to remember that to whom much is given, much is expected.

May our accountability to You guide the choices our lawmakers make as they seek to serve You and country today. Lord, fill their minds with wisdom and their hearts with hope so they will believe all things are possible with You. Open their minds to the inflow of Your spirit to prepare them for the decisions they must make this day.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TOM UDALL 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 legislative clerk read as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, August 2, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator

from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

VETERANS JOBS CORPS ACT OF 2012—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now move to proceed to Calendar No. 476, S. 3457, which is the Veterans Jobs Corps Act.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 476, S. 3457, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a Veterans Jobs Corps, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the next half hour will be for debate on the Coburn amendment on the AGOA-Burma sanctions bill. Following that debate, the time until 11 a.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. At 11 a.m. there will be two votes. The first vote will be a cloture vote on the cyber security bill, followed by a vote in relation to the Coburn amendment to the AGOA-Burma sanctions bill. The filing deadline for second-degree amendments to the cyber security bill is 10 a.m. today. Additional votes are possible today, and we will notify Senators when and if they are scheduled. We will vote at 11 o'clock, so those people debating the cloture motion may not get the full hour. They should understand that.

RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

CYBER SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to start this morning with a word about cyber security. No one doubts the need to strengthen our Nation's cyber security defenses. Open source reporting clearly shows that our defense industrial base, financial sector, and government networks are all under attack by nation states as well as independent hackers. The U.S. Cyber Command, the NSA, and the FBI are working hard to counter these threats. So we all recognize the problem. That is really not the issue. The issue is the manner in which the Democratic leadership has tried to steamroll a bill that would address it.

Members on both sides of the aisle have recommendations for improving our cyber defenses, and some of them thought this bill would provide an opportunity to propose those ideas through amendments, especially since Democrats did not allow for an opportunity to do so in committee. Yet, despite preventing Members from amending the bill in committee, the anticipated open amendment process, once this new bill got to the Senate floor, never happened. It just never happened. Despite being on the bill now for the third day, no Senator from either party has been allowed to vote on any amendment.

Look, this is a big, complicated, far-reaching bill that involves several committees of jurisdiction. Democratic leaders have not allowed any of those committees to improve the bill or even vote on it. Frankly, I was a little surprised the majority leader decided to file cloture and end debate before it even started. An issue of this importance deserves serious consideration and open debate. Instead, the majority

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



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