



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2013

No. 64

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Creator and sustainer, whose almighty hand leaps forth in beauty all the starry band, thank You for the gift of freedom that You have given our Nation. Make us responsible stewards of Your bounty.

Guide our lawmakers in the way of peace, as Your liberating love is seen in their lives. Lord, give them tough faith for troubled times. May they submit to Your guidance and strive to faithfully serve You. Give them the serenity to accept the things they cannot change, the courage to change the things they can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN 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. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 8, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN, a

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

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COWAN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 888

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand that S. 888 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 888) to provide end user exemptions from certain provisions of the Commodity Exchange Act and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to the bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The bill will be placed on the calendar.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

THE BUDGET

Mr. REID. Mr. President, for years Republicans have been singing the praises of regular order, week after week, month after month. It has gone into years now. Even though they may not have been correct, they did it anyway. They said how they missed the days of committee markups, how they longed for an amendment vote-arama, amendments, and how they pined for a budget resolution.

As the junior Senator from Texas said just before the election:

Senate Democrats have not even had a budget in 3 years. They are not pretending to try to fix these problems. I think that is irresponsible.

But then Republicans got what they wanted 46 days ago. Forty-six days it has been since the Senate passed its budget, but Republicans are standing in the way of moving forward in the conference. They got what they asked, and now they no longer want what they asked for.

Remember, 46 days ago, under regular order, after a thorough committee markup, an all-night session—we ended at 5 a.m. in the morning—the Senate passed a budget resolution. Over the last 46 days, Republicans have stunningly and repeatedly blocked attempts to name budget conferees. If we did that, we could start down the path to compromise.

That is what legislation is all about. Legislation, by definition, is the art of compromise.

It is Republicans who, as Senator CRUZ put it, aren't even intending to fix these problems.

Republicans often have said the regular order of the budget process is the only way to get long-term sound fiscal policy. Democrats and Republicans will not find common ground if they don't sit down and talk. Obviously, if we can't talk, it doesn't do any good. We need someone to talk to. Here is what we are trying to accomplish. Move legislation forward.

Don't take my word for it. This is what the Speaker of the House of Representatives said just a few weeks ago:

Here is the process. The House passes a bill. The Senate can pass a bill. And if we disagree, we go to conference and work it out.

What Speaker BOEHNER and Senator CRUZ have said is that they used to love the idea of regular order, but they don't like it anymore. They got what they wanted, but they don't like what they got.

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S3215