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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Holy God, from whom alone all good proceeds, let the graces of faith, hope, and love be felt today on Capitol Hill. Lord, You rule all things by Your wisdom. May our lawmakers, therefore, look to You for guidance and strive to manifest complete subservience to Your will. Continue to shower our Senators and their loved ones with Your daily mercies, as they grow in grace and true holiness throughout the seasons of their lives. May they show their love for You by loving others as You have loved humankind. Help them to continue to expect great things from You as they continue to attempt great things for You. We pray, in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour. The majority will control the first half, the Republicans the final half. Following morning business the Senate will resume consideration of S. 744, the immigration bill.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

I ask unanimous consent that the filing deadline for first-degree amendments to S. 744 be 12 p.m. today.

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

Mr. REID. The filing deadline for all first-degree amendments both to the substitute amendment and the bill is today at noon.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 for our weekly caucus meetings. Senators will be notified when votes are scheduled.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COWAN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, law enforcement officials who made the arrests and looked at this called it a "modern day plantation." What happened was a string of very profitable convenience stores had undocumented immigrants from Pakistan and the Philippines routinely working up to 100 hours a week for below minimum wage. And although their employers made \$180 million over a dozen years, while pocketing much of their employees' wages, these workers lived packed into apartments unfit for human habitation. Because they lacked the proper immigration paperwork, the workers were simply too afraid to speak up for themselves.

It happens all the time. These were the circumstances at more than a dozen 7-Eleven stores in Long Island, NY, and in Virginia. They were raided last week by Federal immigration officials. The unfortunate conditions ex-

posed by this high-profile bust, however, are all too common. The busts do not come very often. They were able to get to the bottom of this. Most of the time these people are so abused and nothing happens except the abuse continues.

More than one-half of undocumented day laborers say they have been cheated by employers. One-quarter of undocumented workers polled in New Jersey say they have been assaulted by their employers, a crime they rarely report. A lot of times there are language barriers, and they are simply afraid they are going to lose their jobs and maybe be deported.

In one survey virtually every undocumented female farm worker said sexual violence in the workplace is a very serious problem. The 11 million people living in America without the proper documentation are particularly vulnerable to abuse by these employers who are very unscrupulous.

A system under which people can be forced to live as indentured servants, under substandard living conditions and the threat of violence hurts all workers, and it is wrong. It is immoral. The bipartisan immigration bill before the Senate will eliminate the kind of exploitation seen at these rogue 7-Eleven stores and other dishonest employers in a number of ways.

First, it will reduce illegal immigration by strengthening our borders and fixing our broken legal immigration system. We all acknowledged before going into this debate that our system was broken and needed to be fixed. That is what this bill does. The bill will also make the electronic employment verification system, known as E-Verify, mandatory within 5 years. That will make it virtually impossible for people without the proper immigration paperwork to secure jobs, removing the incentive to come here illegally and removing the incentive from these unscrupulous employers taking advantage of those people.

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



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