



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 159

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2013

No. 98

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOE DONNELLY, a Senator from the State of Indiana.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever blessed God, we thank You for Your divine grace that sustains us and for each evidence of Your Spirit's leading in our Nation and world.

Lord, inspire our Senators to walk in Your light, as they grow in grace and develop a greater knowledge of You. Make them this day human channels through which Your love can flow to bring harmony where there is discord and hope where there is despair. Empower them to lift high the lamp of truth to illuminate our Nation and world. Incline their hearts to follow Your leading, knowing that in due season they will reap if they persevere.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDING OFFICER 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 10, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JOE DONNELLY, a Senator from the State of Indiana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

NEVADA FIRES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I returned from Nevada this Sunday. On Saturday I had a briefing by the head of the Forest Service in Nevada. We thought things were going very well with the fires in Nevada, and they were. Progress was being made—limited but progress was being made. But since that time the fires have gotten much worse.

Not everyone can see this, but I have a picture—of course, I didn't get this until early this morning and didn't have a chance to enlarge it so we could put it on an easel—but this is the beginning of the Las Vegas strip. This is downtown Las Vegas. It is called the Carpenter fire. You can see it burning.

It is only about 10 miles from Las Vegas, maybe 12 at the most. We can see Mount Charleston, a 12,000-foot mountain. The flames are shooting above that. We don't get many clouds in southern Nevada, but the smoke cloud here is intense. One of my staff indicated that where she lives it is raining ash. This is a very devastating fire, and the firefighters are doing the very best they can in a very difficult situation.

My thoughts go out to the thousands who have been evacuated from their homes in southern Nevada's Mount Charleston area—I think hundreds

would be a better way to say this. Out where the Carpenter 1 fire is, as it is called, it has burned more than 30 square miles of forest and desert.

My heart goes out to the first responders. They are working very hard in extremely rugged terrain. They are doing a lot in the air with helicopters and large airplanes. A couple of areas have been saved because these firefighters have been able to cut waves so the flames don't jump over into these houses. Yesterday the wind changed, and one of the roads going up to Mount Charleston, Kyle Canyon—it jumped that road, burning there, getting closer to some of the homes we are so concerned about.

Lives have been saved as a result of what the firefighters are doing. They have been working around the clock to contain the blaze and protect their communities. Unfortunately, this is southern Nevada where we had heat last week virtually every day of 112 to 117 degrees. It is hot in Las Vegas without this fire; we don't get much rain. In the entire year we get 4 inches of rain. The summer heat, these dry conditions, and the winds are really working against the firefighters, but they are working very hard.

The progress we were making was erased yesterday. The fire jumped Kyle Canyon Road, as I said, and spread to new forest and new desert land. We thought everyone would be able to return to their homes in Kyle Canyon yesterday, but with the fire having spread the way it did, we hope they can get back in their homes soon. We have had a number of hotels in Las Vegas that allowed people who have been displaced to have free lodging.

As I indicated, smoke can be seen everywhere. We have 2 million people now in Las Vegas. Everybody can see the fire. These flames, one can see them well over the 12,000-foot mountain.

The Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service are all working with other Federal agencies and State agencies. They are assisting firefighters in

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



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