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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TIM KAINE, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, Father of all mercies, thank You for Your exceedingly great and precious promises that inspire us. You keep Your promises to supply our needs, to sustain us with Your love, and to provide us with Your peace.

Today, guide our Senators, enabling them to listen to the whisper of conscience as they labor to keep this Nation strong. May their first priority be to live for Your honor, fulfilling Your purpose for their lives. Lord, create in them contrite hearts that they may worthily be instruments of Your peace.

We pray in Your sacred 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, September 23, 2013.

To the Senate:

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

from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

MAKING CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 195, H.J. Res. 59, which is the continuing resolution.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows: Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 195, a joint resolution (H.J. Res. 59) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2014, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there will be no rollcall votes today. It was unnecessary to have any because we are in a procedural situation here dealing with the CR. The first vote of the week will be tomorrow at 11:45 a.m. on confirmation of a judge, a Federal circuit court judge by the name of Hughes.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

I ask unanimous consent that between now and 6 p.m. Senators be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 338, 339, 341, and 343.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, does the Senator yield?

Mr. REID. No.

Mr. CRUZ. Well, I object. The majority leader asked for consent, and I object.

Mr. REID. OK.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, inside the House Republican bubble, the crowd cheered a plan to deny health insurance to tens of millions of Americans or else shut down the government. Outside the House Republican bubble, the reaction was altogether different. The radical tea party plan to shut down the government unless Democrats agree to deny funding to implement ObamaCare—passed by the House of Representatives on Friday—has been called “the dumbest idea ever” by one Republican Senator. It has been called a “box canyon”—a morass from which Republicans will not escape unscathed—by a second Republican Senator. It has been called “dishonest” by one Republican Senator and a “suicide note” by another Republican Senator. So, Mr. President, the reviews are in, and they are universal: The ransom demanded by House Republicans in exchange for keeping the government open is unworkable and unrealistic.

President Obama has been clear, and I have been clear: Any bill that defunds ObamaCare is dead on arrival in the Senate. The Affordable Care Act has been the law of the land for 4 years now. Democrats are willing to work with reasonable Republicans to improve this law. But we now understand that there is an anarchy movement that is afoot. A lead editorial in the New York Times of Wednesday of last week said that. But we are not going to bow to tea party anarchists who deny the mere fact that ObamaCare is the law. We will not bow to tea party anarchists who refuse to accept that the Supreme Court ruled ObamaCare to be constitutional. And we will not bow to

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



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