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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, hear the prayers of all Your people everywhere, great and small alike, rich and poor together. May all people called by Your name humble themselves and pray, seeking Your face and turning from evil.

Lord, You have promised that You will hear the prayers of those who fervently seek You, forgiving our sins and healing our Nation. Inspire our lawmakers who believe in You to also pray. May their intercession bring them a tallness of stature that will enable them to see above the walls of partisan division in order to secure the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity.

We pray in Your holy 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 assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U. S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 14, 2013.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER MURPHY, a Senator from the State of Connecticut, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MURPHY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

DEFAULT PREVENTION ACT OF 2013—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 211, S. 1569.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 211, S. 1569, a bill to ensure the complete and timely payment of the obligations of the United States Government until December 31, 2014.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, at 5 o'clock today the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Andrea Wood to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois and the nomination of Madeline Haikala to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama.

At 5:30 there will be a rollcall vote on the Haikala nomination. The Wood nomination is expected to be confirmed in another way.

LEADERSHIP NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. President, constructive good-faith negotiations continue between the Republican leader and me. I am very optimistic that we will reach an agreement that is reasonable in nature this week to reopen the government, pay the Nation's bills, and begin long-term negotiations to put our country on sound fiscal footing.

I deeply appreciate my friend the minority leader for his diligent efforts to come to an agreement. The Republican leader and I will keep Members informed as negotiations continue.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, let me echo the remarks of my good friend, the majority leader. We have had an opportunity over the last couple of days to have some very constructive exchanges of views about how to move forward. Those discussions continue, and I share his optimism that we are going to get a result that will be acceptable to both sides.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The assistant majority leader.

Mr. DURBIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for such time as I may consume.

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

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, we now find ourselves, amazingly, in day 14 of a government shutdown—a shutdown that was brought to us by the Republicans in the House. They are sitting on a bill we sent them to open the government and they refuse to take it up.

My colleague, the Senator from Connecticut, served over there and I served over there, and we always had an opportunity to use the rules in some way

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



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