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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, how great You are. You are clothed with majesty and glory, riding on the wings of the wind. From the rising of the Sun to its setting, we lift our hearts in gratitude for You have done marvelously.

Lord, continue to sustain our Senators with Your constant love and faithfulness, answering them when they call to You in prayer. Help them to make every effort to do Your will on Earth, giving You their doubts and fears as they trust You to order their steps. May they realize that weakness provides an opportunity for Your strength to be revealed.

We pray in Your strong 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, October 29, 2013.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a

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

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks the Republican leader or his designee will move to proceed to S.J. Res. 26, which is a joint resolution of disapproval regarding the debt ceiling. The time until 12:30 will be equally divided and controlled.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 p.m. for our weekly business meetings of each caucus.

At 2:15 Senators should expect two rollcall votes, first on the motion to proceed to S.J. Res. 26 and, second, a cloture vote on the nomination of Richard F. Griffin, Jr., to be general counsel of the National Labor Relations Board for a term for 4 years.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1592

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am told S. 1592 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1592) to provide for a delay of the individual mandate under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act until the American Health Benefit Exchanges are functioning properly.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to this legislation at the present time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed upon the calendar.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today the Senate will proceed to consider the motion to proceed to a resolution of disapproval filed by the Republican leader, which would cause the country to default on its debts for the first time in its history. The Democrats will oppose this motion and vote to preserve the full faith and credit of our great country. I remind my Republican friends that every Democrat and 27 Republicans in the Senate, as well as 285 Members of the House of Representatives, already voted to do the right thing and pay the Nation's debts.

I look forward to quickly dispensing with this Republican resolution, which would risk America's economic security, as well as a global depression. This vote will take place this afternoon, after our weekly business meetings.

I want to spend a little bit of time talking about nominations. Directly after the vote on the default legislation, we will have the vote to break a filibuster of President Obama's nomination of Richard Griffin to serve as general counsel of the National Labor Relations Board.

There have already been 67 of President Obama's nominations filibustered. Let's just vote on these nominations. I cannot imagine why it would be a good thing for this country, or the Senate, to not allow us to go forward on the nomination. If you don't like him, vote against him, but don't stop the debate from going forward.

If cloture is invoked, there will be up to 8 hours of debate under the new rules we have established in the Senate. We will have 4 hours and the minority will have 4 hours. So I think that would be appropriate.

Few Americans are aware of the job that the National Labor Relations

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



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