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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 20, 2015, at 12 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2015

The Senate met at 4 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JONI ERNST, a Senator from the State of Iowa.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the foundation of goodness, You have done more than we can imagine to draw us to You. Draw our Senators nearer to You, prompting them to find joy in Your presence and inspiring them to obey Your commands. As they remember how You have sustained them in the past, deliver them from the fear of failing at their difficult tasks. Lord, help them to focus on being productive, striving to please You with a harvest of substantive legislation. When they encounter disappointments, encourage them to remember that You can transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. May Your grace, mercy, and peace sustain them now and always.

We pray in Your merciful 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. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 19, 2015.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JONI ERNST, a Senator from the State of Iowa, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. ERNST thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

DEADLINES FACING CONGRESS AND SANCTUARY CITIES BILL

Mr. REID. Madam President, in the coming days and weeks, we as a Congress face a series of real and important deadlines. First, we must address the debt ceiling. Last week, Treasury Secretary Jack Lew let the American people know that in 2 weeks—November 3—the United States faces the threat of being unable to pay its bills. Unless we act, the Federal Government will default on its accrued debt—de-

fault on its accrued debt. A huge percentage of this debt is the result of unpaid tax cuts for the wealthy and two unpaid wars during the last Bush Presidential administration. If we allow the United States to default on this debt, the consequences to world markets would be catastrophic, but that is not all. It is not all this leadership has ignored.

Congress must reauthorize the Export-Import Bank, which has basically gone out of business, causing the loss of hundreds of thousands of jobs in the United States and hurting our economy in more ways than one. It is also important that we pass a long-term surface transportation bill and again avert another potential Republican shutdown of our government by December 11.

Yet as the Senate reconvenes today, we are considering none of those vitally important matters. Instead—just as he did as the shutdown loomed last month—the Republican leader is spending the Senate's time on a partisan, ideological bill to placate the radicals within his own party.

The senior Senator from Louisiana is the architect of this bill before the Senate, which targets the so-called sanctuary cities. Senator VITTER's legislation fails to match the family values rhetoric he so frequently touts. This vile legislation might as well be called "The Donald Trump Act." Similar to the disgusting and outrageous language championed by Donald Trump, this legislation paints all immigrants as criminals and rapists. At

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



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