

SENATE—Tuesday, April 13, 2010

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Lord of all power and might, the Author and Giver of all good things, nourish us with Your goodness. Lead our lawmakers to trust You with all their hearts, for You resist the proud who confide in their own strength. May our Senators be honest with You about their insufficiencies and discover the sufficiency of Your wisdom that can meet their deepest needs. In these challenging days, embolden them with new confidence in the ultimate triumph of Your providence.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN 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. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 13, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. SHAHEEN 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. Madam President, today in the Senate, there will be a period of

morning business for 1 hour. Senators will be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each. The majority will control the first 30 minutes and the Republicans will control the final 30 minutes. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 4851, the Extension Act. We will recess from 12:30 until 2:15 p.m. today for our caucus luncheons. By a previous unanimous consent agreement, at 2:15 p.m. all postcloture time will be yielded back and the Senate will adopt the motion to proceed. The bill will then be open to amendments, and Senators should expect rollcall votes this afternoon.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3194

Mr. REID. Madam President, I am told that S. 3194 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3194) to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to this bill at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF STAFF

Mr. REID. Madam President, things were very hectic when the health care legislation passed. At the end of that work period, I acknowledged the contribution of several staff members to helping Congress pass health care reform—the most significant domestic policy legislation in a long time. There were so many valuable players on this team that it was inevitable, in the haste of things, that perhaps I would forget someone who was very important. I did that extemporaneously and tried to go over all my staff, but I had many things running through my mind, and I inadvertently left off one of the key players on my staff who worked so hard; that is, a man by the name of Bruce King, who worked so actively on health care, especially as it related to reconciliation. More importantly, he is a good person, a fine human being, and the American public is fortunate that people as talented and as selfless as he have chosen public service.

Bruce came to my office after, among other things, serving in a senior role for two distinguished Senators from New Jersey—Senators LAUTENBERG and Corzine. He did that for more than a decade. He also served as staff director for the Senate Budget Committee. He graduated from Tulane University and Stanford School of Law and attended the prestigious London School of Economics, so his academic background is really sensational. He was one of the first people I hired when I became Democratic leader, and it turned out to be one of the best decisions I made for the people of Nevada and the country. He is very easy to work with, very bright, and very helpful all of the time.

He has staffed me so well on so many issues in the last 6 years. He did an especially exceptional job on the reconciliation bill we put together to make improvements on the Senate-passed health care bill. Reconciliation is perhaps the most complicated process the Senate undertakes, and thanks to Bruce and the staff of the Senate Budget Committee, we produced a reconciliation bill that both helped millions of Americans and remained consistent with arcane and complex Senate rules.

I wish to publicly acknowledge Bruce and thank him for all he has done on health care and countless other issues for the people of Nevada and the people of America.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

FINANCIAL REGULATION REFORM

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, a lot of smart people have thought about how to prevent a repeat of the kind of financial crisis we saw in the fall of 2008. We have heard plenty of ideas. But if there is one thing Americans agree on when it comes to financial reform, it is absolutely certain they agree on this: Never again—never again—should taxpayers be expected to bail out Wall Street from its own mistakes. We cannot allow endless taxpayer-funded bailouts for big Wall Street banks. That is why we must not pass the financial reform bill that is about to hit the floor.

The fact is, this bill wouldn't solve the problems that led to the financial crisis; it would make them worse. The American people have been telling us for nearly 2 years that any solution