

SENATE—Wednesday, June 30, 2010

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK BEGICH, a Senator from the State of Alaska.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal and blessed God, in the midst of our days of labor, we are grateful for opportunities to pray.

As our lawmakers grapple with pressing issues, give them the wisdom to seek Your guidance and to depend upon Your direction. Respond to their petition by undergirding them with Your enabling might, empowering them to exercise responsible stewardship of their influence by striving to be lights in a dark world. Open their ears and hearts this day to hear Your voice and obey Your commands, strengthening them to make their utmost contribution to healing a hurting world.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK BEGICH 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. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 30, 2010.

To the Senate:

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

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BEGICH 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, if any, the Senate will

turn to a period of morning business for 2 hours, with Senators during that period of time allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes. Following morning business, the Senate will proceed to executive session and will debate the nomination of GEN David Petraeus. There will be up to 20 minutes for debate prior to a vote on confirmation of the nomination. Senators should expect that vote to occur around noon today.

As a reminder to all Senators, last evening I filed cloture on unemployment insurance and the home buyer tax credit extension. That vote would occur tomorrow unless we arrange, by unanimous consent, sometime today to do this. I will work with the Republican leader on an agreement that would let us vote on that issue today if the minority is so determined.

We will also be able to resume consideration of the small business jobs bill this afternoon. We will consider amendments. Rollcall votes are expected to occur throughout the afternoon and into the evening.

I say to Democratic Senators, we were looking yesterday for an amendment, but none was available. So I agreed to have something happen in the interim and let the Republicans offer amendments if we have none ready or offered. I hope we will also be able to resume consideration of this matter and make headway. It is extremely important that we do that.

On unemployment compensation, we really need to do this. I have had a number of conversations with Senators from individual States about how difficult it is for them to have these long-term unemployed no longer having anyplace to go for help, and there are newspaper articles about people who are desperate throughout America. So I hope we can do something on that.

We have here, and I will call for it in a little bit, the reading of the bill we got from the House of Representatives dealing with extending the first-time home buyer tax credit. That will allow the paperwork to be completed. There is significant support on the other side for this, and I would hope we could do this by consent. If not, it will be part of the vote we have on unemployment compensation. There is no effort to do anything other than to get these two matters passed. So I would hope my friends on the other side of the aisle would consider just letting us do the home buyers assistance, the thing that passed the House. It is paid for. It has been agreed to by Democrats and Republicans. It passed the House last night with 400 votes—400 votes. So I would hope we could get that done by

consent. It is the end of the month today, and we should get this done. I hope we can do that.

As many people are aware, Senator BYRD will lay in repose in the Senate Chamber from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. tomorrow. The family will be in the Chamber from 10 a.m. until 12 noon. Members are encouraged to pay their respects to the family from 10:15 a.m. until 12 noon.

Senate staff with floor privileges and a congressional ID are invited to pay respects from the Senate floor and should enter the Chamber through the north door of the Capitol. Members of the public and Senate staff without floor privileges are invited to pay tribute to Senator BYRD from the Senate galleries from 10:15 a.m. until 3:45 p.m. The public and staff without floor privileges should enter via the Capitol Visitor Center.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 5623

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as I indicated, H.R. 5623, the Homebuyer Assistance and Improvement Act, is at the desk. I believe it is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5623) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the homebuyer tax credit for the purchase of a principal residence before October 1, 2010, in the case of a written binding contract entered into with respect to such principal residence before May 1, 2010, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would at this time object to any further proceedings.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

CAP AND TRADE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday, President Obama invited a group of Senators down to the White House to talk about the kind of energy bill he would like Congress to pass sometime this summer.

The first thing we heard about this meeting is that the President said it