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Senate

The Senate met at 9:31 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Today, O God, bring our Senators' hearts and minds into harmony with Your will, so that they may be assured that their lives are fulfilling Your high purpose. Give them the incentives they need, the trust that is essential, and the joy that is possible as they face the duties and opportunities that lie ahead. Lord, inspire them with the wisdom to correctly use the great power You have given them, so that they and others may be blessed. Bless them with Your maximizing power for the challenges, decisions, and responsibilities of this day. We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TOM UDALL 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 14, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator

from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mr. REID. Today, with this moment of silence, we are going to honor the people of Poland because of the tragedy that occurred there a few days ago. I extend my deepest condolences to the people of Poland. That plane carried 96 souls—parents, husbands, wives, and friends. It carried that nation's President, its First Lady, its Deputy Foreign Minister, lawmakers, and so many other military and civilian leaders. It is hard to comprehend. The tragedy and loss is unthinkable, and America grieves alongside our friends in Poland.

I also want to commend Senators DURBIN and JOHANNIS for taking the lead on a resolution expressing sympathy for the people of Poland. With this resolution, the Senate formally states our condolences for the people of Poland.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now observe a moment of silence in solidarity with the people of Poland.

(Moment of silence.)

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. I thank the Members of the Senate.

Who seeks recognition? The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today, following the remarks by Senators re-

garding the tragedy in Poland—and we appreciate very much their being here—there will be a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. The Republicans will control the first 30 minutes, and the majority will control the final 30 minutes.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 4851, the Continuing Extension Act, with the time until 12:30 p.m. equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. If a point of order is raised against the pending Baucus amendment, at 12:30 p.m. the Senate will proceed to a vote on the motion to waive the Budget Act.

REFLECTION ON POLAND

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would like to say, recognizing that she is here, that one of the remarkable moments of my career was a time a number of years ago when we were in Poland. The delegation was led by Senator John Glenn, and we were meeting with a number of dissidents in Poland—people who were fighting against the repression coming from the Soviet Union. Senator Glenn said a few words, and then I asked that Senator MIKULSKI, who is so proud of her Polish heritage, be recognized to say a few words to these freedom fighters in Poland, and it was one of the most remarkable speeches I have ever heard.

She was so powerful, talking about her background in Baltimore, her heritage, and I have never, ever forgotten that speech made by the Senator from Maryland. It was one of the most remarkable statements I have ever heard in my professional career.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR THE PEOPLE OF POLAND

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

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



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