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Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, the giver of every good and perfect gift, during this Thanksgiving season, we lift grateful hearts to You in prayer. Thank You for the splash of raindrops, for the warmth of sunshine, for the melody of the moonlight, and for the stars that hang like scintillating lanterns in the night.

Lord, we are grateful for strength to meet life's challenges, for the fulfillment of honorable labor, for friendships that dispel loneliness, for the laughter of children, and for the joy of the harvest. We praise You for the privilege to receive Your forgiveness and to make operative Your redeeming grace in our thoughts, desires, and hopes.

We also express gratitude for our Senators, who have an opportunity to participate in history's great events and to serve Your purposes for their lives in this generation.

Lord of all, to You we raise this, our prayer, of grateful praise. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT OF 2013

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 243, S. 1356, the Workforce Investment Act of 2013.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 243, S. 1356, a bill to amend the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to strengthen the United States workforce development system through innovation in, and alignment and improvement of, employment, training, and education programs in the United States, and to promote individual and national economic growth, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will resume consideration of the National Defense Authorization Act. I filed cloture on that bill last night. As a result, the filing deadline for first-degree amendments to the bill is 1 p.m. today.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1752

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am told S. 1752 is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1752) to perform procedures for determinations to proceed to trial by court-martial for certain offenses under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings on this bill at this time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

IRAN SANCTIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am a strong supporter of our Iran sanction regime and believe that the current

sanctions have brought Iran to the negotiating table.

I believe we must do everything possible to stop Iran from getting nuclear weapons capability, which would threaten Israel and the national security of our great country.

The Obama administration is in the midst of negotiations with the Iranians that are designed to end their nuclear weapons program. We all strongly support those negotiations and hope they will succeed, and we want them to produce the strongest possible agreement.

However, we are also aware of the possibility that the Iranians could keep the negotiations from succeeding. I hope that won't happen, but the Senate must be prepared to move forward with a new bipartisan Iran sanctions bill when the Senate returns after the Thanksgiving recess. I am committed to do just that.

A number of Senators, Democrats and Republicans, have offered their own amendments on Iran, and they have offered a couple of the amendments in the Defense authorization bill. I know other Senators also have their own sanctions bills they would like to move forward on.

I will support a bill that would broaden the scope of our current petroleum sanctions, place limitations on trade with strategic sectors of the Iranian economy that support its nuclear ambitions, as well as pursue those that divert goods to Iran.

While I support the administration's diplomatic efforts, I believe we need to leave our legislative options open to act on a new bipartisan sanctions bill in December, shortly after we return.

Mr. President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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



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