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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 2, 2008, at 12 p.m.

Senate

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2008

(Legislative day of Wednesday, September 17, 2008)

The Senate met at 10:01 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. WEBB).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

God of all the worlds that are, redeemer of humanity, govern our Nation and world. Lord, may the dawning of Rosh Hashanah provide all people who believe in You with opportunities to review past mistakes and to resolve to make improvements in the days to come.

In these tumultuous times, lead our lawmakers. Help them not to second-guess the destinations to which You may take us but to focus on doing what is right. Keep them from being reluctant to make courageous decisions that may take them through valleys before they see the mountain peaks. May our Senators seek to do what pleases You, their most important constituent, and to work faithfully to do what is best for America.

You are our Lord and Savior. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB 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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following the remarks of myself and Senator MCCONNELL, we are going to move to continue on the consideration of H.R. 2095, the rail safety-Amtrak legislation. Cloture was invoked on the motion to concur in the House amendment yesterday, so we will continue to debate this today during the 30 hours. There will be no rollcall votes today in view of the Rosh Hashanah holiday, but we will have votes tomorrow evening after sundown. We are still working on an agreement to consider the United States-India nuclear agreement. I am quite certain we will finalize that so there can be a vote on that tomorrow.

Mr. President, on the financial crisis facing our country, the blame game needs to end and we need to move forward on doing what is right for our country.

Yesterday's drop on Wall Street amounted to a loss of more than a trillion dollars—about \$1.2 trillion, to be exact. Most of that money doesn't come from Wall Street titans but from the pensions of people who have retired and who have worked for city government, county government, State government, or in some business they worked at for many years, or people who have frugally worked during their lifetime to save a few dollars and put it into a retirement account. These people are rightfully worried that the security of their golden years will be compromised by what has happened with the irresponsibility in the financial sector. So the most important job we have as Members of Congress is to safeguard the physical and fiscal security of the American people. Despite yesterday's setback in the House of Representatives, this continues to be our No. 1 goal.

Last night, I spoke with the President's Chief of Staff, Josh Bolten. I talked to him again this morning and spent quite a long time with him on the telephone. I spoke to Senator OBAMA this morning, who had just completed a conversation with President Bush. I mention that not to be a name-dropper but to indicate that we are working together to try to resolve this important issue.

Senators BENNETT, CORKER, and GREGG on the Republican side, as well as Senators DODD, BAUCUS, CONRAD, DURBIN, SCHUMER, and JACK REED on

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



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