United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2009 No. 143

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROLAND W. BURRIS, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Lord God of the nations, our country was conceived in the minds and hearts of appointed leaders who acknowledged their need of You. May the Members of this body follow that example and humble themselves before You. Help our lawmakers to admit their need for Your guidance and submit to the leading of Your spirit. Lord, remind them that You have promised to be with them always, even until the end of the age. Encourage our Senators in the knowledge that each Member is important to the effective operation of the legislative process. Keep them working together as a family of loyal Americans privileged to serve our Nation.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROLAND W. BURRIS 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 6, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROLAND W. BURRIS, a Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BURRIS 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, the Senate will turn to executive session to consider the nomination of Thomas Perez to be an assistant attorney general, with the time until 12:15 equally divided and controlled between Senators LEAHY and SESSIONS, the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee.

At 12:15 the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote on the nomination. Under a previous order entered, if cloture is invoked, all postcloture debate time will be yielded back and the Senate will proceed to vote on confirmation of the nomination.

We are working out now whether we will need a rollcall vote on confirmation of the nomination if cloture is invoked. Upon disposition of the nomination, the Senate will proceed to the weekly caucus luncheons which will last until 2:15 p.m. today.

After the recess, there will be a period of morning business until 3:15 p.m., with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. At 3:15 the Senate will resume consideration of the Department of Defense Appropriations bill and begin a series of up to 14 rollcall votes in relation to the remaining amendments and passage of the bill.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1751

Mr. REID. Mr. President, S. 1751 is at the desk. It is my understanding it is due for a second reading.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1751) to prohibit the Federal Government from awarding contracts, grants, or other agreements to, providing any other Federal funds to, or engaging in activities that promote the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now or any other entity which has been indicted for or convicted of violations of laws governing election administration or campaign financing.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings with respect to the bill at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

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

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

HEALTH CARE WEEK XII, DAY 1

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the American people have made their voices heard in the health care debate. Their message is clear. They want reforms that bring down the staggering cost of health care and increase access,

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

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