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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord, still our busyness that we may take time to hear Your voice. Focus the attention of our lawmakers that they may be attuned to Your special speaking. Silence the noises that distract them, enabling them to hear Your still, small voice. Infuse them also with such courage that they will patiently endure even Your silence, as they seek to fulfill Your purposes by their labors. Lord, visit them with Your presence and power until Your will is done on Earth as it is done in heaven.

We pray in Your righteous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK R. WARNER 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, November 16, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a

Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER 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, there will be a period of morning business until 3 p.m. today, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Act. At 5:30, the Senate will proceed to two rollcall votes in relation to the bill. The first vote is in relation to the Coburn amendment No. 2757. The second vote is in relation to the Coburn motion to commit the bill.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 3962

Mr. REID. Mr. President, H.R. 3962 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3962) to provide affordable, quality health care for all Americans and reduce the growth in health care spending, and for other purposes.

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

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

Mr. REID. The Chair will announce morning business, please.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for morning business up to 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. 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. ALEXANDER. 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.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, will you please let me know when 10 minutes have expired?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair will do so.

(The remarks of Mr. ALEXANDER and Mr. WEBB pertaining to the introduction of S. 2776 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

TRAIL OF KHALID SHAIKH MOHAMMED

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I want to speak about the decision announced last Friday by the Attorney General to bring Khalid Shaikh Mohammed and other 9/11 coconspirators to the United States from Guantanamo Bay to stand trial in the Southern District of New York.

Of course, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed is the self-described mastermind of the 9/11 tragedy where 3,000 Americans

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



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