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Senate

The Senate met at 10 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.

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of a new year. We have received great benefits from Your hands and lift to You our grateful praise.

Lord, lead our lawmakers on the road You have chosen. Guide them with Your counsel and teach them with Your precepts. Give them the spirit they ought to have that they may do what they ought to do. Lord, this is the day You have made. We will rejoice and be glad in You, for Your joy is our strength. We pray in Your great 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 legislative clerk read as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 20, 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 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 proceed to a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each. The time will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

Following morning business, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Beverly Baldwin Martin of Georgia to be a U.S. circuit judge for the Eleventh Circuit. Debate on the nomination is limited to 1 hour, equally divided and controlled between Senators LEAHY and SESSIONS or their designees. Upon the use or yielding back of the time, the Senate will proceed to vote on confirmation of that nomination.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 until 2:15 p.m. to allow for our weekly caucus meetings.

We expect to consider H.J. Res. 45, a joint resolution increasing the statutory limit on the public debt, under a previous agreement later today.

MEASURES PLACED ON CALENDAR—H.R. 3961 and H.R. 4154

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct. The clerk will read the title of the bills for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3961) to amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reform the Medi-

care SGR payment system for physicians and to reinstitute and update the Pay-As-You-Go requirement of budget neutrality on new tax and mandatory spending legislation, enforced by the threat of annual, automatic sequestration.

A bill (H.R. 4154) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the new carryover basis rules in order to prevent tax increases and the imposition of compliance burdens on many more estates than would benefit from repeal, to retain the estate tax with a \$3,500,000 exemption, to reinstitute and update the Pay-As-You-Go requirement of budget neutrality on new tax and mandatory spending legislation, enforced by the threat of annual, automatic sequestration, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to further proceedings with respect to these two bills.

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

MAKING LEGISLATIVE PROGRESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, visiting with Nevadans, as I have done during these past several weeks, it is impossible not to be motivated to get back to the business of legislating. It is impossible to ignore their grief over growing foreclosures or the uncertainty of unemployment or the frustration of fighting insurance companies for their families' health.

It is just as evident that the people of Nevada and the Nation need us to work toward sensible solutions rather than drown once again in the partisan bickering that consumed much of last year.

Some elections go your way; some elections go the other way. It is the nature of democratic politics in a very diverse Nation. But regardless of an outcome of an election, as I have said many times, the American people demand that we work together as partners, not partisans, to improve their lives. That is as true after Republican victories as it is after Democratic victories.

In the first half of the 111th Congress, even with the minority's minimal help,

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



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