



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 156

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2010

No. 12

## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, January 29, 2010, at 12 noon.

## Senate

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2010

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MICHAEL F. BENNET, a Senator from the State of Colorado.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

For the beauty of the Earth, robed in the garb of providential love, we raise our morning hymn of praise.

Today, give our Senators vivid vision to know Your will and to follow Your leading. Lord, inspire them to engage in selfless service with courage and compassion, fulfilling their call to be instruments of Your glory. In these challenging times, drive them to their knees for the inner strength that will keep their faith from faltering when pressured. Provide them with the strengthening joys of Your spirit and the newness of life that only You can give.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MICHAEL F. BENNET 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 bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, January 28, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL F. BENNET, a Senator from the State of Colorado, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. BENNET 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 for the transaction of morning business for 1 hour. The time will be controlled by the two leaders or their designees. Senator SANDERS is going to control 15 minutes of the majority time. We have a half hour. So he will have 15 minutes of that time.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of H.J. Res. 45, the debt limit legislation, and proceed to a series of votes in relation to the following items: Brownback amendment; Sessions/McCaskill amendment; Reid amendment; Baucus for Reid amendment; and passage of H.J. Res. 45.

Following those votes, there will be 1 hour of debate prior to a cloture vote on the nomination of Ben Bernanke to be Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve. We are going to try to see if we can work with both Democrats and Republicans to have more time to debate prior to a vote on Ben Bernanke. If we can work that out, we will have an extended period of time, whatever Senators want, prior to Mr. Bernanke, and then we would have cloture and perhaps final passage. We don't have that worked out. At least the order before the Senate is that following the series of five votes, there will be an hour of debate prior to a cloture vote on Ben Bernanke.

Mr. President, I see the distinguished Judiciary chairman here. We have a half hour of time, and I will be happy to give to my friend whatever time he desires.

How much time does my friend need? Mr. LEAHY. Ten minutes.

Mr. REID. Ten minutes to the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, PAT LEAHY. I have already indicated Senator SANDERS will have 15 minutes of our time.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction

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



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