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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK BEGICH, a Senator from the State of Alaska.

PRAYER

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

Almighty God, the giver of blessings, fill us with Your peace. As our lawmakers learn to trust You, may they overflow with hope through the power of Your Holy Spirit. Strengthen them to guard and protect an unwavering strength in You, energized by their confidence in Your promises. Lord, give them a fresh vision of the unlimited possibilities available to those who trust You as their God. Enable them to sense Your spirit's presence working through people, arranging details and solving complexities.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK BEGICH 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, June 21, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK BEGICH, a Senator from the State of Alaska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BEGICH thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

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 legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks there will be a period for morning business until 5:15 today with Senators allowed during that period of time to talk for up to 10 minutes each. At that time, the Senate will turn to the Executive Calendar and debate until 6 o'clock. We will turn to executive session with debate until 6 p.m. equally divided and controlled between Senators LEAHY and SESSIONS or their designees. At 6 p.m. the Senate will proceed to vote on the confirmation of Mark Goldsmith from Michigan, Marc Treadwell of Georgia, and Josephine Tucker of California, all to be district court judges.

This week the Senate could resume consideration of the tax extenders legislation or turn to FAA reauthorization, first responders collective bargaining, small business jobs bills or, if they are available, conference reports on the Wall Street reform, Iran sanctions, or the emergency supplemental appropriations bill.

MEASURE READ THE SECOND TIME—H.R. 5297

Mr. REID. I am told that H.R. 5297 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5297) to create the Small Business Lending Fund Program to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to make capital investments in eligible institutions in order to increase the availability of credit for small businesses, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now object to any further proceedings on this matter.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, what we do on the Senate floor has consequences far beyond this building. We know our work has real world costs, far beyond the beltway. But it is not just what we do that touches our constituents' lives and livelihoods, it is also what we do not do. When the Senate refuses to pass good bills, the people in our States pay the price. I hope we can avoid more of that this week and we can come together and work productively.

Right now, loopholes reward corporations for shipping jobs out of America, putting them out of reach of the many unemployed workers in each of our States. Every day we do not act, the loopholes remain wide open, those jobs vanish, and those we represent get hurt.

Right now, small businesses are desperate for tax incentives to create jobs at home. Every day we don't act, those small businesses have a harder time hiring, and the unemployment rate has a harder time falling.

Right now, Nevada's unemployment rate is the highest in the country. Victims of the recession who have been

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



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