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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Creator God, who has nurtured us throughout the seasons of our sojourn, give to the Members of this body the love, strength, and wisdom to do Your will. Keep them walking in the paths of righteousness and let them feel Your abiding presence in times of joy and sadness. Lord, empower them to hold fast to the good will that unites them, making them instruments of Your purposes to bring peace in our days, peace to our souls, peace to our families, peace to our country, and peace among nations. May they be moved by Your majesty and motivated by the magnitude of the responsibilities You have entrusted to them.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS 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. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter.

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 31, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, a Senator from the State of Delaware, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COONS 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, we are already on S. 3414, which is the cyber security bill. The time until 2:15 p.m., is for debate only, and the time until 12:30 p.m. will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees. The majority will control the first hour and the Republicans the second hour.

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

I will alert everyone to this: I hope those people, led by Senator LIEBERMAN and Senator COLLINS, will work to come up with a finite list of amendments so we can move on the cyber security bill.

I spoke to the Republican leader yesterday and have been very patient and tried to get a list of amendments we can agree on. I hope that can be done soon. It is very important that we make a determination of whether we are going to be able to get a bill. There is not a lot of time left to tread water, so to speak.

This is an important piece of legislation. All one needs to do is look at what is going on in India today. There are no cyber problems there that I am aware of, but one-half of the country of India is without electricity today. Transportation has been shut down, financial networks in India, which are

significant, are down, and it is a chaotic place. There are 600 million people in India who are without electricity. As we have been told time and time again, the most important issue we have facing this country today for security is cyber. We have been told that by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and by the head of the CIA. We have been told that by Democrats and Republicans. It is an issue that is important, and we have been told it is something we can prevent.

If we don't do this bill, it is not a question of if there will be a cyber attack that will be devastating to our country, it is only a question of when. It can be stopped. I hope the chamber of commerce will get some sense.

There was a big meeting in the Chamber yesterday. They were moving forward on all that was bad about the bill. The problem is they were dealing with the wrong bill. So I hope we can get something done. It is extremely important that we do.

There will be a Senators-only briefing today at 5 p.m. in the Visitor Center today in SVC-217.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3457 AND H.R. 4078

Mr. REID. I am told there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3457) to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a veterans job corps, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 4078) to provide that no agency may take any significant regulatory action until the unemployment rate is equal to or less than 6.0 percent.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with regard to these bills at this time.

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

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



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