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Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, whose mercy exceeds our sins, we thank You for the failures that drive us again and again to You for forgiveness and restoration. May we see in our setbacks opportunities for growth and progress.

Lord, change our lawmakers not from what they were but toward what they really are: generous, wise, and responsible stewards of Your bountiful grace. Keep us from becoming a country that wants to feel good rather than be good, as You empower us to live worthy of our forebears who sacrificed so much for freedom.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SHERROD BROWN 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. LEAHY).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

Washington, DC, December 20, 2012.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a

Senator from the State of Ohio, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

MODIFICATIONS TO AMENDMENTS—H.R. 1

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the clerk be authorized to modify the instruction lines on amendments proposed to the substitute amendment No. 3395.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1, which is the legislative vehicle for the supplemental appropriations bill involving the terrible storm that struck New England. The filing deadline for the first-degree amendments is 1 p.m. today. We will work on an agreement for amendments in order to complete action on the bill.

We are also hopeful that we can complete the extremely important Defense authorization bill today, and we are moving forward on FISA today. We are moving forward one way or the other. I hope we can get an agreement to move forward. If not, we will move forward without an agreement.

We will need everyone to pay attention as they always do but maybe more so today. There are a lot of things going on here, and people need to understand that we have things to do if

we want to be able to get home for a few days for Christmas, even though we will be back on the Thursday after Christmas.

TRIBUTES TO DEPARTING SENATORS

JEFF BINGAMAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to take a few minutes today to honor my colleague, the senior Senator from New Mexico, JEFF BINGAMAN, as he retires from a long career of service to our country.

For 30 years Senator BINGAMAN has been a dedicated representative of the people of New Mexico, but for 26 of those years he was the junior Senator from New Mexico. The only person I know of who was a junior Senator longer than Senator BINGAMAN was Fritz Hollings. He was a junior Senator for many decades to Strom Thurmond. But 26 years as a junior Senator still makes you a fairly senior Senator. JEFF served alongside Senator Pete Domenici, the longest serving Senator in New Mexico's history. Until 2009 he was the most senior junior Senator.

JEFF BINGAMAN has never been one to get hung up on titles and credits. If there was ever a conscience of this body, it is JEFF BINGAMAN, a man who has been called by others, including Byron Dorgan, a workhorse. That is really true. For three decades he has quietly but diligently fought for the people of New Mexico and this country.

American industrialist Henry Kaiser once gave this bit of advice: "When your work speaks for itself, don't interrupt." And that is JEFF BINGAMAN. That could have been written for JEFF BINGAMAN by Henry Kaiser. That has been JEFF BINGAMAN's motto for years. He is not one for flashy press conferences. Most of the time he is too busy.

JEFF learned humility in the small town of Silver City, NM, where he grew up. His father was a professor and his

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



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