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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the light for those who know You and the security for those who love You, You formed us in Your image and likeness. Help us, therefore, to live as children of Your kingdom. May we not squander our inheritance of faith, integrity, love, humility, and perseverance in a far country of waste. Empower us instead, O God, to live worthy of Your Name.

Use our lawmakers to do Your will. May they remember not only to serve the haves but also the have-nots: the hungry, the homeless, the persecuted, the voiceless, and the powerless. Fill our Senators with compassion so that they will glorify and honor You.

We pray in Your marvelous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 23, 2013.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable WILLIAM M. COWAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COWAN 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 be in a period of morning business for 1 hour. The majority will control the first half, the Republicans the final half. Following morning business the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to the Marketplace Fairness Act. From 12:30 today until 2:15 the Senate will be in a recess to allow for our weekly caucus meetings.

Yesterday evening a number of Senators missed votes. We have talked about this a number of times and become somewhat complacent. We have votes for 15 minutes. We extend it for 5 minutes. We have extended that time for a long period of time.

Because of procedural things around here in the Senate, I had to terminate that vote before 6 o'clock in an effort to save a full day of legislative business. Obviously, there is 30 hours following that cloture vote—wasted time. I have talked about it before, but there was no reason whatsoever that we went into Wednesday rather than Tuesday. So I do not apologize. Everyone here has to understand there are certain things we have to do around here.

We have been somewhat lax in enforcing the length of votes. It is very unfair to people who vote and have other things to do to wait for others before the vote is terminated. I under-

stand how important it is for people to do their votes, but it is also important to get our business done here. I repeat, had we not terminated that vote before 6 o'clock, then it would have kicked us over until Wednesday before cloture could be filed on the bill. I do not know if I am going to file cloture on the bill today, but at least I have the opportunity to do that.

REGULAR ORDER

Mr. REID. Mr. President, my Republican colleagues often demand a return to regular order. We have heard speeches, and the House is also talking about regular order. They have done this many different places but especially where the budget process is concerned. They complained for 2 years that we did not pass a budget, even though there was a law we passed that gave us those budget numbers.

But they still came and talked about our needing to do a budget resolution. I repeat, we did not need a budget resolution because we had enacted a budget with the force of law, a bill the President signed. A resolution, the President does not have to sign that. This year, I repeat, the Republicans again requested we take up a budget resolution.

Until 5 in the morning we took vote after vote on amendment after amendment, more than 100 votes. In the end, we passed a budget resolution without a single Republican vote in the affirmative. After giving the Republicans what they wanted or what they said they wanted, regular order, countless amendment votes, the passage of a budget resolution, a strange thing happened. House Republicans did a complete 180. They flipped. They are no longer insisting on regular order, even though they preached that for years. They do not want to go to conference and work things out. They did not even want to name conferees.

It seems House Republicans do not want to be seen discussing even the

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



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