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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 23, 2009, at 10.30 a.m.

## Senate

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 2009

The Senate met at 2:01 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we come to You today because we need You. We can't work well without Your help and blessings. Guide our lawmakers, give them the wisdom to listen to Your voice and follow Your leading. Lord, remind them that no one knows what a day might bring, so they must not put things off until a tomorrow that may never come. Help them to use their lives wisely and not foolishly, generously and not selfishly. As they labor, may they remember that one day they shall give an account of their work to You. To that end, empower them to live for Your honor.

We pray in Your matchless Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK R. WARNER 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 22, 2009.

*To the Senate:*

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
*President pro tempore.*

Mr. WARNER 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 up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each during that period of time. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1023, the Travel Promotion Act. The time from 4:30 until 5:30 will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. At 5:30, the Senate will proceed to a rollcall vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Dorgan amendment. The filing deadline for first-degree amendments is today at 3:30 p.m.

### TRADE PROMOTION ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, later today Democrats will move forward on a bill sponsored by Democrats and Republicans—lots of Republicans—a bill that creates jobs at a time when we need them the most. I encourage the Republicans to join with those of us who want to move forward on this piece of legislation. Democrats will do our jobs—using this great legislative body to legislate—and make life better for struggling Americans. I encourage my Republican colleagues to do the same.

The travel promotion bill is critical for our economy. Tourism and travel generate \$1 trillion in economic activity every year—\$1 trillion. In its first year, this bill will create 40,000 new jobs.

There isn't a State in the Union that doesn't depend on tourism. I can remember the first time I went to a place where we had a Democratic retreat in Virginia. I walked out of my room and I saw this huge body of water and I thought: Gee, I didn't know we were on the ocean. It was just a huge—must have been a mile at least to the other side of that body of water. It was the James River. It was a river.

The reason I mention that is I have had the good fortune of traveling around Virginia. It is a wonderful place to visit. There are all kinds of tourist attractions in Virginia. But every State is about the same. Every State has its unique possibilities and places to go. I have been to virtually every State in the Union. There are so many wonderful places. I know Virginia better because for quite a long time my non-Nevada home was in Virginia and

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



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three of my five children graduated from schools in Virginia. It is a wonderful place, and tourism is very important to Virginia. This bill is important to Virginia.

Again, travel and tourism generate \$1 trillion in economic activity around the country every year, and in its first year, this bill will create more than 40,000 jobs. The bill will cut our deficit. We are not asking for money from the public trough to take care of this. This bill will cut our deficit by \$425 million over the next decade. We save money by doing this. We make money by doing this. We will be taking the strategies that have made Las Vegas such a success and bringing them to our entire Nation's tourism industry. It is one of the many ways we are working to create jobs and help our economy recover.

So far, the minority has shown no interest in either creating jobs or in helping our economy recover. I hope that, in this case, past is not prologue.

One of my floor staff here said they saw a Republican staffer just a short time ago and the Republican staffer said: Why won't you let us offer amendments?

That is some kind of game being played. I have had conversations with the Republican leader and with other Republican Senators on this bill, and I have said: Let's move on with this legislation. Under the rules, the amendments ultimately have to be germane, but I have said: I don't care if they are germane or not. If you want to offer amendments, that is what we have done all year and we will do it here.

They wanted to offer four amendments on TARP, and I said: Well, that has nothing to do with tourism, but if you want to do that, go ahead and do it.

In response, Senator SANDERS, from Vermont, told me that he had an amendment he wanted to offer. I said: Listen, BERNIE, if you want to offer a nongermane amendment, you can do it. If they want to offer a nongermane amendment, they can; otherwise, we are not going to do that.

So we have all these nongermane amendments they want to offer, and he has one he wants to offer. His amendment simply restates the law and makes it a little stronger, and in effect what it does is takes a look at the oil companies to see if they are manipulating prices. So the Republicans said: No, we are not going to agree to that; we want you to take all of our amendments, we will vote on them, and none for you. Well, that is not fair, it is not reasonable, and it is only an excuse for Republicans to again stymie legislation.

So let's get the facts straight. At the start of the debate, we offered Republicans nongermane amendments. They could have more amendments than we could have. We agreed to do that. Not a single one of the Republican amendments was related to this bill, and some of the amendments were even du-

plicates. But I said: Let's go ahead and do it anyway. Of course, the Republicans said no. They refuse to let us move forward, once again wasting the American people's time and money. They refuse to let us move forward—I repeat—once again wasting the American people's time and money.

It is difficult to watch what is going on here and come away with a sense that the Republicans have even the slightest interest in legislating or that they have the slightest understanding of what families are facing across the country. Just last week, in the Roll Call publication, a Republican Senator said—and it is on the front page—"Senate GOP Still Saying No." A Republican Senator said this last week in one of the newspapers that cover Capitol Hill, Roll Call:

Democrats need to know when they bring [bills] up, we're going to extend debate as long as we can—even if we can't win it.

So I say to this Republican Senator and all Republican Senators: This isn't a game. I say to those watching and listening today: The next time Republicans trot out their stale standard talking points about congressional approval ratings or the inefficiency of government, pay attention to see whether they also quote their fellow Republican Senator who admits they are not here to work. These partisan tactics have consequences. These consequences will be evident on every kitchen table, every family budget, and every American's peace of mind.

I encourage Republicans to finish this legislation. I have said that if there are nongermane amendments they want to file, even though we have no obligation to do that, we will have those amendments during the 30-hour postcloture time and dispose of them. I don't understand what the deal is here. This is the 18th time we have had to file cloture this year—the 18th time. In spite of that, we have been able to get a lot of work done. But I do encourage Republicans to join with us in moving this legislation forward. It is important.

I look around the floor, and I see Virginia, Nevada, and Arizona Senators here. Tourism is very important. It will create jobs. It will cut our deficit. It is not a bad combination. So I would encourage Republicans to join in this important travel promotion bill and to openly pass it so we can bring jobs home, helping our country prosper once again. We know if we can get past this procedural hurdle where we need 60 votes, all Democrats will vote to move forward. That is the right thing to do. Shouldn't we get even the sponsors of the bill to join in?

We haven't stopped the amendment process. They are going to have to come up with a different reason for voting against it than that because everyone has had an opportunity.

So I hope we can move forward. It was a bill that was originally going to be managed by Senators DORGAN and ENSIGN. Senator MARTINEZ has been

heavily involved. I thought we had things all worked out with him and Senator DORGAN on Thursday, but it all fell apart because of the inability to have Senator SANDERS have his amendment.

I simply don't understand what excuse they have for not moving forward with this legislation.

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#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

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#### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period of morning business for 1 hour, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Arizona.

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#### IRAN

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, there is a news report from the Associated Press entitled "Iranian Police Use Force To Break Up Protest." The article reads as follows:

Tehran, Iran—Riot police attacked hundreds of demonstrators with tear gas and fired live bullets in the air to disperse a rally in central Tehran Monday, carrying out a threat by the country's most powerful security force to crush any further opposition protests over the disputed presidential election. Witnesses said helicopters hovered overhead as about 200 protesters gathered at Haft-e-Tir Square. But hundreds of anti-riot police quickly put an end to the demonstration and prevented any gathering, even small groups, at the scene. Iran says at least 17 protesters have been killed in a week of unrest so far after the electoral council declared hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad winner of the June 12 election.

Severe restrictions on reporters have made it almost impossible to independently verify any reports on demonstrations, clashes, and casualties. Iran has ordered reporters for foreign news agencies to stay in their offices, barring them from any reporting on the streets.

The story goes on. Demonstrations followed by repression, followed by murder in the streets. As these things seem to evolve, an event took place yesterday which may be the defining moment in the struggle of the Iranian people to be able to peacefully disagree with their government, in this case, because of a corrupt and fraudulent election, without being killed in the streets and beaten and imprisoned.

It has to do with a woman named Neda. I quote from an ABC news story dated June 22, 2009.

She sinks to the ground—and a few minutes later she is dead. A video that has been repeatedly posted on the Internet purports to show the last moments of Neda, a young Iranian woman shot in the heart by government sharpshooters. Overnight she has become a symbol of the opposition. [Her] shaky