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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

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

It is good to be able to talk to You, mighty God, whenever we desire. Your power astounds us. You heal the broken-hearted and bring comfort to those who are bruised. You decide the number of stars, calling each one by name. You raise the humble, spread clouds over the sky, and provide rain for the

Earth. Great and marvelous are Your works; just and true are Your ways.

Today, bless our Senators as they seek to do Your will. Give them strength and encouragement by infusing them with Your peace that surpasses all understanding. We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

NOTICE

If the 111th Congress, 2d Session, adjourns sine die on or before December 23, 2010, a final issue of the *Congressional Record* for the 111th Congress, 2d Session, will be published on Wednesday, December 29, 2010, in order to permit Members to revise and extend their remarks.

All material for insertion must be signed by the Member and delivered to the respective offices of the Official Reporters of Debates (Room HT-59 or S-123 of the Capitol), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. through Wednesday, December 29. The final issue will be dated Wednesday, December 29, 2010, and will be delivered on Thursday, December 30, 2010.

None of the material printed in the final issue of the *Congressional Record* may contain subject matter, or relate to any event that occurred after the sine die date.

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By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

CHARLES E. SCHUMER, *Chairman*.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TOM UDALL 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 assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 15, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM UDALL, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

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



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Mr. UDALL of New Mexico 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 the remarks of Senator MCCONNELL and myself, we will be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m. with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. At 10 o'clock this morning, Senator BAYH will deliver his farewell remarks to the Senate, and at 10:30 a.m. Senator VOINOVICH will deliver his. I spoke yesterday about Senator BAYH and what an outstanding person he is and how much we will miss him. I will have something to say in a few minutes about Senator VOINOVICH.

At 11 a.m. today, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message with respect to H.R. 4853, the vehicle for the tax compromise. There will be 1 hour for debate prior to a series of up to four rollcall votes. There will be votes on three motions to suspend rule XXII, and the last vote will be on the motion to concur with the Reid-McConnell amendment.

Following this series of votes, the Senate will resume morning business until 2:15. At that time, we intend to move to executive session for the purpose of considering the START treaty. Senators should expect a rollcall vote to proceed to executive session, and for the information of all Senators that is simply a majority vote.

Following the vote to proceed to executive session, Senator LINCOLN will be recognized to deliver her farewell speech to the Senate. Upon conclusion, the Senate will resume executive session.

We have Christmas, which is a week from Saturday. We have a lot of things to do. I have talked about that before, but let me just briefly say again what we have to do.

We are going to finish this tax bill within the next couple of hours. It is a tremendous accomplishment. Whether you agree with all of the contents of the bill or not, everyone should understand this is one of the major accomplishments of any Congress where two parties, ideologically divided, have agreed on a major issue for the American people. It will go directly to the House of Representatives. They will take it up quickly.

We are going to move to the START treaty. I hope we can have a good, fair debate. No one needs to be jammed on it. There is lots of time for people to do what needs to be done. If people want to offer amendments, they can do that. This treaty has been around since April or May. Even a slow reader could finish every word of that many different

times. I would hope no one will require us to read the treaty. What a colossal waste of time. So I hope that is not going to be necessary.

We then are going to move to the spending bill, which is so important to get done for our country. We will move to that as quickly as we can. We will see how things go with this treaty. But it is clear, I have spoken on many occasions with the Republican leader, we are going to be in session this Sunday. There is work to do. We hope we can complete what we have to do a day or two after Saturday. We want to complete the things I have just mentioned. We are going to have to have a vote on the DREAM Act. We have the 9/11 issue. We are working on nominations to complete the work we need to do this Congress.

Unless the House sends us something I am not aware of at this stage, I think I have pretty well lined out what we need to do. On nominations, the Republican leader knows the President is very concerned about having somebody at the Attorney General's Office. We need somebody to be second in command. The Deputy there has been going a long time. There has been one Senator holding that up, and we hope that matter can be resolved. The lands bill, we are trying to work it out, and we hope we can get that done. It is a bipartisan bill. That is certainly possible.

So we have a lot to do, and we need everyone's cooperation to get it done so we can get out of here as quickly as we can.

TRIBUTES TO RETIRING SENATORS

GEORGE VOINOVICH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to say a brief word about GEORGE VOINOVICH. I have watched him for many years. He has an outstanding record. He is a Senator from the State of Ohio who came to Washington with as many credentials as anyone could have: a member of the State legislature, the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Ohio, mayor of the city of Cleveland, and now a U.S. Senator. He has a wonderful family.

The thing GEORGE VOINOVICH brought to Washington a lot of people don't recognize because of his quiet manner is his work ethic. He gets up very early every morning and works on what is necessary in the Senate. He studies the bills. He is aware of the issues that are before the Senate on any given occasion. Nothing gets past him. He always is up to date on everything we are doing.

I haven't agreed with Senator VOINOVICH on lots of different issues, but he has a quality that we all need to have: You never have to guess where he stands on an issue. He will always tell you how he feels. That has been a tremendous help to me. There have been occasions when his vote has been so very important for, I believe, the Sen-

ate, the State of Ohio, and certainly the country. He always tells you how he feels, what he is going to do, and once he makes up his mind that is what he is going to do. I admire him very much.

I have had such good feelings about people coming from Ohio. I had the good fortune to serve here when John Glenn, a man we all know, one of America's all-time great leaders. Ohio produces very good people, at least from my experience in the Senate—Senator Metzenbaum, and now SHERROD BROWN with us. I will not run through a list of everyone.

I certainly want the RECORD to reflect, prior to Senator VOINOVICH's final speech today, how much I respect him as a legislator and as a person. I appreciate his friendship and hope in the years to come we can still work together on issues for the country.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

OMNIBUS APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday Democratic leaders unveiled an omnibus spending bill that some have described as one last spending binge for a Congress that will long be remembered for doing just that. The Senate should reject it.

It appeared to some of us we were making good progress on the economy when lawmakers in both parties agreed Monday to let taxpayers keep more of their own money. But yesterday Democrats unveiled a 2,000-page spending bill that repeats all of the mistakes voters demanded that we put an end to on election day.

Americans told Democrats last month to stop what they have been doing: bigger government, 2,000-page bills jammed through on Christmas Eve, wasteful spending. This bill is a monument to all three. It includes more than \$1 billion to fund the Democratic health care bill. For those of us who have vowed to repeal it, this alone is reason to oppose the omnibus. It is being dropped on us with just a few days to go before the Christmas break, ensuring that no one in Congress has a chance to examine it thoroughly before the vote, and ensuring Americans don't have a chance to see what is in it either. This, too, is reason enough to oppose it.

For 2 years Republicans have railed against the Democrats for rushing legislation through Congress, but this is, without a doubt, one of the worst abuses of the process yet.

The voters made an unambiguous statement last month. They don't like the wasteful spending, they don't want the Democratic health care bill, and they don't want lawmakers rushing staggeringly complex, staggeringly expensive bills through Congress without