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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 8, 2010, at 2 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2010

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, let Your glorious Name be duly honored and loved by all who call You Lord. Send forth Your blessed spirit into our hearts that we may live worthy of Your love.

Bless our lawmakers and use them as instruments for good. Pour down Your wisdom upon them that they may ever promote liberty and justice for all. Strengthen their hearts against temptation, transforming them into more than conquerors by Your grace. Lord, make them one in the common cause for justice, righteousness, and truth.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK 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 7, 2010.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK 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.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

FOCUSING ON THE CRISES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, first, I welcome everyone back. I hope they had a good break.

As a nation, our focus continues to be on the disaster in the gulf. This is a national tragedy, the full dimensions of which we still do not know. But one thing is clear: The top priority at this

point, as it should have been from the start, is to stop the leak. Americans are far less interested in how tough the administration plans to be after the leak is fixed than they are in fixing it. People want action more than they want accusations. There will be plenty of time to assess blame and to tighten regulations after the crisis is met. But weeks of blame has done absolutely nothing to plug the leak. Let's focus on the crisis at hand.

As we work to stem the crisis in the gulf, Congress cannot continue to ignore another pressing crisis—an exploding Federal debt that threatens our very way of life.

This week, the Senate will debate the deficit extenders bill the House passed just before the recess. Just for a little context, let's remind ourselves what this bill is. The original purpose of this bill was to give America's job creators an assurance that the longstanding tax benefits they are counting on to retain workers will not be pulled out from under them. But because Democrats cannot seem to resist any opportunity to use a must-pass bill such as this as a vehicle for more deficit spending, they have piled tens of billions of dollars in unrelated spending and debt on top of it, all at a moment when the national debt has now reached \$13 trillion for the first time in history. This is fiscal recklessness, plain and simple.

The time has come for hard choices. Americans see what is happening in Europe, and they are begging us to bring the debt under control, to cut it down before we face a similar fate here. Instead, Democrats in Washington just

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



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keep piling on as if they are oblivious to the consequences.

Some Democrats in the House started to rebel last week, and some Democrats in the Senate have indicated they will ask for amendments on this bill as well. They are demanding that party leaders make an effort to at least acknowledge that this debt crisis exists. But Americans want more than lip service.

Here is what the protests of squeamish Democrats in the House achieved: A bill that was supposed to increase the debt by \$175 billion will now only increase the debt by \$54 billion. In other words, instead of agreeing that the debt is out of control, Democrats played politics—they spent as much money as they could on this bill without losing the votes needed to pass it.

Even in the face of public outrage, Democrats are showing that either they just do not get it on this issue of debt or they just simply do not care. But it is even worse than that because not only are Democrats clearly unserious about this issue, they are not giving the American people the whole picture. They did not lower the price tag on this bill by making tough choices; they just shortened the timetable on the programs it funds by openly promising to add that spending back later. They do not plan to spend any less; they just plan to spend it all by putting it in separate bills, which is a little bit like arguing that you have less debt because you put it on different credit cards.

Clearly, Democrats do not see a \$13 trillion national debt for the emergency it is. So let's remind ourselves where we stand so there is no confusion about the gravity of the situation. As I stand here this afternoon, every man, woman, and child in America would have to cough up more than \$42,000 to pay down our debt. That is \$42,000 for every man, woman, and child in the United States. And that is just the current debt. Remember, it took two centuries—two centuries—to accumulate a \$10 trillion debt. In the first 500 days of this administration, Democrats added \$2.4 trillion to the debt and plan to add another \$1 trillion this year. Americans are as worried as I have ever seen them about the course we are on, and they have a simple message for Congress: Stop spending money we do not have.

One more thing. If all the domestic crises of the past few years have taught us anything, it is that more government is not a solution in itself. Yet this administration has approached virtually every crisis it has faced with more government as the primary solution.

Right now, among other challenges, we have a debt crisis, a jobs crisis, a housing crisis, a financial crisis, and an oilspill to which the American people clearly do not believe government is effectively responding. One can understand the American people's skepticism when they are told that simply

adding more government is the solution to government's previous failures. They are being told that adding more government is the solution to government's previous failures.

Now is not the time to propose more government as a solution to these crises. It is time to rethink the model to start focusing on accountability and on results. And a good place to start is the debt. Americans expect action on this issue, and they expect it right now. Unfortunately, Democrats in Congress do not seem to be listening on this issue any more than they did on health care or the stimulus or financial regulatory reform or, for that matter, anything else.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. At 4:30 p.m. today, we will turn to executive session to consider three nominations, with debate until 5:30 p.m. equally divided and controlled between Senators LEAHY and SESSIONS or their designees. At 5:30 p.m., the Senate will proceed to a series of up to three rollcall votes. Those votes will be on the confirmation of Audrey Fleissig, of Missouri, to be a U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Missouri; Lucy Koh, of California, to be U.S. district judge for the Northern District of California; and Jane Magnus-Stinson, of Indiana, to be a U.S. district judge for the Southern District of Indiana.

This week, the Senate will consider the House message with respect to the tax extenders legislation. Also, on Thursday, June 10, we will consider S.J. Res. 26, a joint resolution disapproving a rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency with respect to greenhouse gases, under provisions of an agreement reached May 25.

JUNE WORK PERIOD, OILSPILL, AND IMPERFECT GAME IN DETROIT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I welcome back my colleagues from their travels back home. It is always good to see them and my staff. I am grateful for all who are here working hard. I know we all benefit from seeing and speaking with our neighbors and constituents, honoring our Nation's bravest on Memorial Day, and talking about the good work we have done this year.

We have really done a lot. Long overdue health care reform is now the law

of the land. To show how much we have done, Norm Ornstein, one of the most celebrated pundits, columnists, journalists in all of Washington, reported a few weeks ago that this is the most productive Congress in the history of the country. That comes from someone who is not from the left or the right but someone who is a mainstream journalist in America today. The House and Senate have each passed bills to clean up Wall Street. Three million Americans who are going to work today have the Recovery Act to thank for their jobs. In Nevada, the Recovery Act created or saved more than 4,000 jobs in just the past 4 months alone. Again, that is in Nevada.

But every time I go home, I am reminded how much more we have to do and become reenergized to do it. The work period between now and July 4 is short, but our to-do list is very long. We have to pass an emergency extension of unemployment benefits and other matters related to job creation, which will be in the bill that will be put on the Senate floor this afternoon. These benefits have now expired and so should our patience for excuses. These people lost their jobs through no fault of their own. They are struggling to put food on the table and to take their kids to the doctor. It is important that we recognize that. It is an emergency for these families and for our entire country.

Many who oppose this extension gave tax breaks to rich CEOs who shipped American jobs overseas. Now their constituents are looking for a lifeline in a job market they helped sink. I hope both sides can come together to give them the help both they and our economy need.

This legislation cuts taxes for middle-class families and small businesses. This bill includes a host of tax credits, tax extenders, and tax incentives, all of which will help put people back to work—something Democrats and Republicans should come together to finish because it is something we can all support and be proud we did. More than that, it is something each of our States desperately needs.

To this legislation we intend to add a bill for FMAP funding, that is, Medicaid money to ensure the poorest in our communities can afford to stay healthy, which will protect jobs in States such as Nevada and prevent deep cuts to critical services all over the country.

Mr. President, just a few comments about the remarks of my friend, the Republican leader. We all know the debt of our country is significant and of concern to us. But I am stunned by my friend's short memory of history. One reason we have this red ink that is flowing so strongly is we had two wars that weren't paid for. The Iraq war alone cost \$1 trillion. Many say it was a war of choice, not of necessity.

The financial meltdown came about as a result of decisions Republicans made. For example, in the last 3 years