



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 156

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2010

No. 156

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, you inhabit ages and all worlds. Dwell among our Senators today. Tune their hearts to Your purposes and open their lips to speak Your wisdom. Lord, infuse them with Your spirit so that their work will make a positive impact on our Nation and world. Banish their anxieties, as You provide them with a faith strong enough to face whatever challenges they must confront. Lord, give them openness of mind in order that they might perceive Your will more clearly; openness of heart, that they might love You more profoundly; and openness of hand, that they might serve You more devotedly.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND 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 2, 2010.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND 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. Madam President, following leader remarks, there will be a period of morning business for Senators to speak up to 10 minutes each. The majority will control the first 30 minutes; Republicans will control the next 30 minutes. We will be in recess again today from 12:30 until 3:30 to allow for a Democratic caucus.

Yesterday, the House sent us a 2-week continuing resolution, and we need to act on that funding bill before the current continuing resolution expires on tomorrow. I will continue to work with the Republican leader on a time for its consideration.

We have other matters. I am in touch with my caucus, the Republican leader, and the White House to try to move toward completing business before Christmas.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a half hour of morning business, with Members permitted to

speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes and the Republicans controlling the next 30 minutes.

Mr. REID. It is my understanding that the order before the Senate is that each side will have a full 30 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The leader is correct.

The Senator from Massachusetts.

START TREATY

Mr. KERRY. Madam President, I believe a number of colleagues are lined up to speak. They are not here, so I will take a moment and take it off the Democratic side and just speak for a very few minutes.

I know a number of my colleagues are wanting to talk a little bit about the START treaty. I look forward to their doing so. I did want to bring colleagues up to speed on sort of where we are and hopefully give an accurate, up-to-the-moment assessment of sort of what the progress is.

I wish to express my gratitude to a group of Senators on the other side of the aisle—Senator KYL, Senator MCCAIN, Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, Senator ISAKSON, and Senator CORKER, particularly—all of whom have been working in good faith and consistently.

Senator KYL and I are talking almost every single day. It has been a constructive process. Obviously, there are points of disagreement here and there on substance. We are trying to work through those. I wish to say that Senator KYL has worked with us calmly and quietly and in good faith in an effort to try to resolve some legitimate questions from Members on his side of the aisle. He has been consistent and persistent in hammering home those differences and the needs that must be met as we go through the process. Vice President BIDEN has been particularly engaged and particularly helpful in helping us to move the process forward, so the administration has a voice that

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



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is directly engaged in these discussions and is working very hard to meet the concerns raised by Senator KYL and others.

I am encouraged by the process in which we are engaged. Senators need to know it has not been a process of sidestepping a best effort to try to get to a place where we can take up the START treaty in the next days. We still have some issues to try to complete.

Some Senators have expressed the desire to hear from the administration with respect to the Lisbon conference and what modality was arrived at there with respect to deployment. We will make that happen. In addition, the President was sent an additional set of questions just the other day. Those answers are being worked on, and they will be forthcoming.

As long as everybody keeps working in this kind of positive and constructive way, I am hopeful we can live up to our responsibility.

I call the attention of Senators to the Washington Post today, an editorial op-ed written by former Republican Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger, George Shultz, James Baker, Lawrence Eagleburger, and Colin Powell. They clearly say: We urge the Senate to ratify the New START treaty signed by President Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev. They express their reasons why they believe it is important for us to do so.

It is my hope that the conversations we are having and the process that is in place is going to produce a positive outcome. We will certainly work in good faith to try to make that happen in the next days and hours.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. 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.

REMEMBERING MAYOR BILL GORMAN

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, in October a dear friend of mine—and of the Commonwealth of Kentucky—passed away peacefully. And today I wish to pay tribute to Mayor Bill Gorman, of Hazard, KY, for his warm and generous spirit and, above all, for his faithfulness to the mission of promoting, defending, and serving the people of Hazard.

Mayor Gorman was born about a decade after the railroad came, when Haz-

ard was first opening up to the world. He saw the floods and the cleanup, the coal carnivals, and the stores on Main Street come and go. He saw Senators and Congressmen, and Presidential candidates. He saw it all. And he could have followed it all too, right out of Hazard. But he didn't. Because Hazard was the only place he ever wanted to be.

The story goes that Bill was vacationing down in Florida in 1977, when somebody threw his name in the race for mayor. From that point on, being mayor was all Bill ever wanted. He never drew a paycheck. And he was never off the clock—as anyone who used to get his late-night phone calls can attest. He was always thinking of how to move Hazard forward, how to make life better for the people of Hazard and the surrounding region. Whether it was extending the water lines or building a pool where the kids in town could learn to swim, or expanding the hospital, or improving and expanding educational opportunities, he always had a vision and a plan to make it happen. And he usually did.

He attended every ribbon cutting, no matter how small. And he took everybody's calls—even at home—and there were a lot of them—because his number was always listed in the phone book. He treated everyone with dignity and respect, and he wanted to talk to everybody, whether you were the President of the United States—and Bill knew a lot of them or somebody down on their luck.

One of Bill's lunch buddies remembers being with him once when he got a phone call from an elderly widow who lived in one of the public housing units in town. Her health was deteriorating, she said, and she wondered if he could help her move from the fourth floor to the first floor. Mayor Gorman got the building manager on the phone immediately and asked if anything was opening up on the first floor. There was. And that woman got her wish. Moving floors was important to that lady, so it was important to Mayor Gorman.

Another time a group of city workmen dropped into a local restaurant for a bite to eat after working around the clock after a snow storm. When the bill came, they were told it had already been paid. It was Mayor Gorman, but they didn't know it. He made sure of it. He did that kind of thing all the time, never flaunting it, just lifting folks up—from high school kids going off to college to an elderly woman who needed a hand—he was there.

For Mayor Gorman, no problem was too little or too big. He was as concerned about the little things as he was determined to accomplish the big things, and he was a master at both. He never boasted. He just did good. It is a rare breed these days. But Bill Gorman was a rare man, a gentle soul who devoted himself to his mission in life and who enjoyed every minute of it. Not that he wasn't feisty. If you ever want-

ed to pick a fight with Mayor Gorman, say something about the people of eastern Kentucky; he would take you on. And the people of Perry County loved him for it.

He was proud of his people and his heritage. And he was proud of the coal industry that built this region. As it happens, I got to know Bill before he was a mountain legend. Long before either of us had set out on our political careers, and I was working as the youth chairman for Marlow Cook, who was running for the Senate that year. When they sent me out on the road, they told me to look up a guy named Bill Gorman when I got to Hazard. He was the guy, they said. And they were right. And when the two of us got together for the last time at his home this past August, 42 years later, he was still the guy.

Washington may not be a very popular place these days, but Hazard is a pretty popular place in Washington. Walk into any office—whether it is a staffer or a U.S. President—and you are liable to see a Duke or Duchess of Hazard citation on the wall. I am told that even Pope John Paul II was named a Duke of Hazard, which is appropriate, since Bill used to say he was born a Baptist, was adopted by the Catholics, and would die a Presbyterian. Like a lot of politicians, he was covering all his bases.

Mayor Gorman once said that government is only as good as the people who run it. If that is true, it is likely Hazard will never be as good as it was when Mayor Gorman was with us. But I think we owe it to him to make it so—to live our lives with the same dedication and spirit of service he did. I am blessed to have known him. He is dearly missed.

MISPLACED PRIORITIES

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday we watched a number of Democratic Senators come to the Senate floor and express their exasperation at not being able to do what they want to do around here. It is quite astonishing.

Let's face it, most Americans are not particularly interested in the things Democratic leaders have put at the top of their to-do list. They thought they put a restraining order on Democratic partisan priorities early last month. It is time Democrats put the priorities of the voters first.

In a couple of weeks the lights go out around here unless we do something to stop it. At the end of the month every taxpayer suffers a pay cut unless we stop it. But Democrats would rather spend the Senate's limited time on don't ask, don't tell and immigration. They would rather come down to the floor to talk about filibuster rules.

So they still do not get it, and that is why Republicans are insisting we put these things aside and finish the most important and urgent legislation before time runs out.