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Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.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.

O God, full of compassion and love, Your voice is over the waters, full of majesty, so we give You the glory due to Your Name. As we approach another 9/11 anniversary, with threats of terror in the air, give strength to Your people and bless us with Your peace. Remind us that though we cannot always prevent tragedies, we can choose to respond to them with faith and trust in You.

Lord, bless our Senators in their labors today. Empower them with Your presence, sustain them with Your spirit, encourage them with Your word, and renew them with Your grace. You, O God, are our strength and our sure defense.

We pray in Your holy 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. INOUE).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 9, 2011.

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.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
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 any leader remarks, the Senate will be in morning business. During that period of time, Senators will be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each. There will be no votes today.

I am working with the House to find out what they can work with us on. We know we have the FAA bill, which expires next Friday. The highway bill expires at the end of this month. Those are the two primary issues we are working on, in addition to the FEMA problems we have in Virginia and around the rest of the country. We are going to make a decision today on what we will move forward on, but I need to hear from the House first.

AMERICAN JOBS ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I applaud the bipartisan approach taken by the President last night regarding his jobs act. He described it and described it well. It is really a commonsense plan, and this plan will be a tax cut for middle-class families and even small businesses. It will put laid-off teachers and first responders back to work. It will send construction workers to jobsites around the country to renovate schools and to build roads and bridges. It will also ensure that Iraq and Afghan veterans who have returned from serving

their country come home to a job. It will also help Americans who have been unemployed for far too long keep their families afloat while they look for jobs.

Reagan Republicans would have embraced this reasonable, commonsense approach, the so-called American Jobs Act. All the ideas in this legislation have been supported by Democrats and Republicans in years past. Some of the ideas originally came from Republicans.

This jobs plan won't add a single penny to the deficit. In fact, we all know reducing unemployment is the fastest way to reducing the debt.

I urge reasonable Republicans to resist the voices of the tea party and others who would oppose this legislation and root for our economy to fail. It is sad that they do, but they do, and they do it for political reasons. They should see that this proposal is made up of bipartisan ideas, supported in the past by Members of both parties. They must not continue to bow to the tea party Republicans, who are willing to do anything to hurt the President. Instead of hurting the President, they are causing a tea party recession. We cannot allow their radical political agenda to crowd out America's jobs agenda.

The uncertainty of this summer—the fight over whether to default on our financial obligations and a shocking credit downgrade—has rocked an economy that was already shaky. But this fall and this legislation offer us an opportunity to set the American economy back on the right track, and we need to do that.

I look forward to studying the President's bill. The Senate will begin debate on this proposal as soon as possible. I know not every Republican will support this legislation, and I know not every Democrat will support all aspects of the legislation, but it is a good piece of legislation, and we need to work together. I look forward to an open, honest, and respectful debate. So I hope my Republican colleagues will

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



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contribute constructively to this process in the coming weeks rather than resorting to the obstructionist tactics which have so dominated Washington for the last 8 months. I hope a new day of compromise is dawning.

REMEMBERING 9/11

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on the eve of September 11, I would ask that we all remember this: The challenges we face as a Nation, whether threats to our security or to our economic security, are the same. Our Nation's security and our economic security are tied together.

This Sunday, my fellow Nevadans and I and the rest of the Nation will join in a remembrance to the tragic events of that fateful day 10 years ago, and we will mourn the thousands of innocent lives lost in New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. We will never forget the events of that Tuesday morning, which dawned so clear. It was a bright blue sky that ended gloomy and dark.

But we should also remember the spirit of unity and determination that blossomed amidst the darkness of that day. In the weeks and months that followed, we were not Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives, red States and blue States, we were Americans. Beneath the partisanship of Washington, that is as true today as it was 10 years ago. It doesn't mean we will not disagree. In fact, the same freedom that allows us to disagree is also the root of our democracy. But it does mean we must work together in the best interests of this great Nation and in the interests of every man or woman who calls America home, no matter how difficult.

Today, the greatest challenge facing this Nation is putting 14 million Americans back to work and returning some prosperity to our economy. I look forward to tackling that challenge as one Nation. We need to join together in that cause.

Mr. President, would you announce the business of the day.

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. The Senate will now be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 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. HATCH. 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.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I yield to the distinguished Senator from Tennessee and without losing my right to the floor, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to make my remarks immediately thereafter.

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

THE ECONOMY

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, I certainly appreciate the courtesy of the Senator from Utah. I will be very brief. I will actually be propitious in many ways. I am here at a time when the Senator from Virginia is the Presiding Officer.

Last night there was a focus on a short-term stimulus. I wish to thank the Senator from Virginia and the Senator from Georgia who have led efforts over the course of the last many months to focus on trying to deal with our longer term issues. I think there are many of us in this body, as well as in the House of Representatives, who believe the best way for us to deal with our short-term economic situation is to deal with the long-term structural issues that are affecting our country so much.

So I am here today to express hope and to say I feel a tremendous consensus building. I know the Presiding Officer and I were in a meeting earlier this week where I think there was demonstrated a lot of consensus by Republicans and Democrats in the Senate toward using this supercommittee and encouraging the supercommittee. There was tremendous optimism expressed about what this supercommittee is getting ready to do. But we wish to encourage them to look at a number of deficit reduction ideas which may be twice or even more than the original charge and, secondarily, to encourage them to use this tremendous opportunity for tax reform, much like was laid out in many of the Bowles-Simpson concepts, and to have Medicare entitlement reform as part of that; and, thirdly—and this is me speaking individually, although I think there is consensus building around this too—to do something longer term as it relates to infrastructure, such as having a 6-year highway bill. I feel that momentum building in the House. I think it exists in the Senate.

The reason I am on the Senate floor today is to say one thing. We have a tremendous opportunity to deal with our long-term issues which will immediately affect our economy now and stimulate it, if we will do that. I hope what we will not do is become sidetracked on issues that are more around the edges, more around the fringe, issues that are short-term in nature. The Presiding Officer, who has created jobs in his lifetime, and I have done the same thing in my lifetime, and I under-

stand it is important to create a long-term environment where people have confidence that we have actually dealt with this country's problems. There is nothing—nothing—that could be more stimulative in the short term than for people to see that this body and the body across the way on the other side of the Capitol have dealt with these issues in an appropriate way.

I am encouraging us to stay focused, to stay focused on the supercommittee, to continue to encourage them to do even more than what is their charge. I think there is a lot of consensus around that, and I am thankful to be a part of that encouragement.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor and thank again the senior Senator from Utah for his tremendous courtesy and certainly his leadership on so many of these issues. I thank the Senator very much.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I thank my colleague. He is one of the more prescient people in this body, and we all care a great deal for him. I appreciate his leadership in this great body.

REMEMBERING 9/11

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I remember September 11, 2001, as if it were yesterday. I was here in my office at my desk when the unthinkable happened. I remember driving to the Senate that morning thinking it was such a beautiful day. It was a crisp fall morning with a remarkable blue sky. Over the years, I have often wondered how such resplendence could occur amid such evil and suffering. I take solace in knowing that nearly 3,000 innocent victims, including 3 Utahns, hopefully touched the face of God that day.

Yet since that horrible day, Americans have once again risen to the challenge. As President George W. Bush said 3 months after the attacks:

Our enemies have made the mistake that America's enemies always make. They saw liberty and thought they saw weakness.

But 10 years on, Americans have shown, once again, our resolve can never be broken. When confronted by evil, we will not yield.

I remember on that day I came over here to the Senate, and we were told to evacuate the Capitol. As we walked out—some running as fast as they could—and walked down the steps of the Senate side of the Capitol, I turned around and saw that Senator Helms was back up on the veranda, and he was having difficulties, as he did in his later years, with ambulation, and I walked back up the steps, and he leaned on my arm as we came down the steps and were among the last to leave the Capitol at that time. We were warned there might be a plane flying into the Capitol or into the White House, and it was a matter of great concern to everybody.

But 10 years later, as I have said, Americans have once again shown the