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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Unto You, O Lord, do we lift our hearts this day in praise and thanksgiving. You are our God and we put our trust in You. Lead us away from shame, for You are our rock and refuge.

Today, give Your grace and strength to our lawmakers. Empower them to live worthy of every trust this Nation commits to their hands. Make them champions of liberty, messengers of peace, and servants of Your kingdom.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEANNE SHAHEEN 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, February 15, 2011.

To the Senate:

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

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. SHAHEEN 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 any leader remarks, there will be a period of morning business until 11 a.m. Senators will be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each during that period of time. At 11 a.m. the Senate will resume consideration of the FAA authorization bill.

At 11:40 a.m. the Senate will resume consideration of the Nelson of Nebraska amendment. There will be up to 20 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote in relation to the amendment, as amended. The Nelson amendment relates to criminal penalties for the unauthorized distribution of advanced imaging technology. At about noon, the Senate will proceed to vote in relation to the Nelson amendment, as amended.

The Senate will then recess from 12:30 until 2:15 p.m. for our weekly caucus meetings. After caucus, there will be 10 minutes for debate equally divided prior to a vote in relation to the Wicker amendment, as modified. The Wicker amendment relates to the collective bargaining rights of TSA employees. Senators should expect a vote in relation to the Wicker amendment to begin at about 2:30, 2:25 p.m.

Both of these amendments are subject to 60-vote thresholds. Additional rollcall votes in relation to FAA amendments are expected to occur throughout the day.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 359

Mr. REID. Madam President, H.R. 359 is at the desk and due for a second reading, I am told.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 359) to reduce Federal spending and the deficit by terminating taxpayer financing of presidential election campaigns and party conventions.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings at this time, Madam President.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar under rule XIV.

TRIBUTE TO MANNY PACQUIAO

Mr. REID. Madam President, I am going to take a few minutes today to talk about a friend of Nevada's and a friend of mine. This man is from the other side of the world. His name is Manny Pacquiao. He is in Washington today. Every time I visit with him, I come away more impressed than the last time.

Although those of us who serve here are close with our colleagues in the U.S. Congress—and some even achieve celebrity status inside the beltway itself, the so-called beltway bubble—few of our names and faces are recognizable beyond our shores.

Senator Ted Kennedy was an exception to that rule with fame he earned through the decades he and his family dedicated to public service. So was Senator Clinton—and in her current role as Secretary of State, even more of the world recognizes and respects her. I traveled to Europe with Senator John Glenn. He was a rock star all over Europe. He was a global hero because he orbited the globe.

But no one in our national legislature comes close to the level of worldwide fame of the Congressman from the

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



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southern tip of the Philippines, Manny Pacquiao.

The bond between the Philippines and the United States is deep and strong. During World War II, when the Pacific nation was a commonwealth of this country, brave and patriotic Filipino troops served under the American flag. With the leadership of Senator DAN INOUE, who acted so heroically in the Second World War, we fought in the legislative branches of our government to give those troops, those Filipino troops, the well-deserved and long-overdue pensions they earned during a time of war.

Now Congressman Pacquiao is a Member of Congress from the Philippines. He is also a boxer who holds many other titles than that of Congressman. He holds the title of Super Welterweight Champion. He is the only person in the history of boxing to hold eight world titles. He is the first person in history to win 10 world titles in 8 different weight divisions. He started out being a champion at 106 pounds.

He has fought them all. He has fought people who outweighed him 35, 40 pounds. He has been declared the fighter of the decade and three times the fighter of the year. He is rated the No. 1 pound-for-pound best boxer in the world. From Flyweight to Light Middleweight Champion, Welterweight Champion, Lightweight Champion—no other boxer in history has achieved what he has achieved.

He is an ambitious young man with a closet full of championship belts and the start of a promising political career already under his belt. I am most gratified, as I mentioned, that he is a friend of Nevada's, where his sport is a major player in our economic arena. He is someone I really admire.

Manny Pacquiao and I come from opposite sides of the globe, but in our hearts we come from the same place. Manny grew up with nothing. He was just a kid when he had to leave his home and live in the streets. He started fighting in the streets and went into the ring where he certainly has been one of the all-time greats.

He fought for money when he was a mere boy. He has done so well in life. He has fought to get an education he was not able to get as a young boy. He is married to a wonderful woman named Jinkee. They have four children. He is a devout Roman Catholic. When he stepped into the ring for the first time, it changed his life.

He is a fighter. I have talked about that. There is near unanimous agreement he is the best pound-for-pound fighter on the planet today and perhaps ever, and that takes into consideration some great fighters—Sugar Ray Leonard, Sugar Ray Robinson.

He is a man who is so fun to watch. In his last fight—I watched that fight—he was outweighed by some 30 pounds. He won the fight. He won every round of that fight, and the man he fought had been a champion. But he knows it is not enough just to fight for your-

self—and he does that very well—or to be a world champion many times over. You have to be a champion for others. That is what he believes.

He is very tough—we know that—not because he can take punches as forcefully as he gives one but because he fights for those who cannot fight for themselves.

The large and vibrant Filipino community in Nevada looks up to Manny, as do Filipinos and fight fans all over the world. He sets a welcome example of an athlete who does good for many. He is someone who is not in public service for fame or glory or money but because he knows his people need his advice and need his voice.

He is a friend, I repeat, of Nevada's, a friend of America, and—I am happy to say—a friend of mine.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

Mr. REID. Madam President, when President Obama released his budget yesterday, he made one thing very clear: getting our economy back above water will require shared sacrifice.

Few documents are more intricate and complex than our national budget. But beyond the numbers, what I found deep in this budget is an affirmation of our principles. Among those values is a commitment to recognize and adapt to reality—investing in what works and changing what does not.

I appreciate the President's call for shared sacrifice and living within our means and, more than that, his willingness to do more than just talk but actually lead toward fiscal responsibility. He did not just talk about tough choices, he made them. I do not agree with all of his choices. I disagree with some of his cuts. But I cannot deny that by making the difficult decisions he showed leadership.

I also found in the President's budget the recognition that we are not in a competition to determine who can cut the most; rather, we need to cooperate to discover where we can cut the smartest.

This budget proposes a long-term plan to responsibly cut the deficit in half in President Obama's first term. It does not do that by blindly chopping zeros off bottom lines or eliminating programs wholesale. It invests in that which will grow our economy—such as education, such as innovation, and such as infrastructure.

It does not buy into the partisan talking point that there is no difference between spending and investing, because there is. In other words, it recognizes we can lower the deficit not just by subtraction but also by addition. When we invest in education, we create a smarter and stronger workforce. When we invest in innovation, we create jobs before the rest of the world beats us to those jobs. When we invest in our infrastructure—from the interstates to the Internet—we lay the foundation for prosperity.

I am disappointed the congressional Republicans seem to have learned

nothing from recent history. They are again trying to slash the programs that keep us safe and eliminate the programs that keep us competitive. They are still fighting for billions in special breaks for oil and gas companies, the insurance industry, and billionaires.

In the last few days, the former president of Chevron oil said: We don't need those subsidies. But yet Republicans are fighting for subsidies for oil companies when the oil company executives say they do not need them.

We have already tried it their way. They are fighting and substantiating billions in special breaks for oil and gas companies, the insurance industry, and billionaires. We tried it. It does not work. That is why we are in the mess we are in. But the Republican reaction to the President's budget has been an attempt to go back in time.

If they want to time travel in search of fiscal responsibility, they should not stop at President Bush's failed administration; they should keep going to his predecessor's, when we balanced the budget with President Clinton.

We live in the present and we budget for the future. We have spending challenges before us. We cannot afford to forget those challenges will not be solved by extreme rhetoric or unrealistic idealism. They will be solved only when reasonable partners are willing to come to negotiate with responsible proposals that find a critically important balance: one that brings down our deficit while keeping our economy moving in the right direction.

When we find that middle ground, we will leave the next generation with an economy they can count on, with the confidence we seek in our future, and with the knowledge that when difficult decisions need to be made, Americans do not shirk that responsibility; when presented with a tough choice, we make it.

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, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Illinois.

EDUCATION FUNDING

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, the President presented to Congress a budget. It is the annual process or ritual where the President makes the first move, presenting a budget, and then Congress responds. The House and