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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer, strengthen our Senators with Your spirit, infusing them with power for living. Lord, make Your truth real to them, enabling them to discover in Your precepts light for their path. May Your mercy, grace, and peace sustain them through the myriad challenges they face.

Lord, set them free from fear as they remember that nothing can separate them from Your love. As Your grace abounds toward them, give them strength for every weakness and sufficiency for every trial.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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. LEAHY).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 19, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. WALSH, a

Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WALSH 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. Following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour. The Republicans will control the first half and the majority will control the final half.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration on the motion to proceed to H.R. 4660.

There was a lot of conversation about how to move forward on this yesterday, but by late last night a way of moving forward was not obtained. We are still working on that. We expect to begin consideration of the bill around 12:45 p.m. today, something like that.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

Mr. REID. Last weekend there was something strange and unusual happening out in Southern California near a place called Dana Point, which is north of San Diego. The previous night's guests were being ushered off the premises by hotel security. A private security team moved onto the property, setting up checkpoints. The hotel employees could be seen sweeping the rooms for electronic listening devices, and dozens of wealthy men and women were led into the resort, registering to attend an event deceptively entitled "T&R Annual Sales Meeting."

This meeting, once started, turned into a multiple-day event. It was closed

to all spectators, journalists, and all those not explicitly invited. No official itinerary was available and details have not been forthcoming.

There were at least two Senators slated to attend and they did attend, but their offices have refused to comment on their participation. After all, attendees were sworn to secrecy—high levels of security, concealment, deception, and oaths of silence. That doesn't sound anything like a typical conference. It sounds more like a cult. But instead of being a religious movement or a secret sect, this is a cult of money, influence, and self-serving politics. This is the cult of Koch, and I am referring to the Koch brothers.

At their twice-yearly secret donor retreat, Charles and David Koch raise millions—millions and hundreds of millions—of dollars they then use to pursue their radical agenda—and it is radical. This year's conference was especially important to the Koch brothers as they coordinate efforts to spend hundreds of millions of dollars dictating this year's elections.

But why cloak their message in secrecy?

In his op-ed in the Wall Street Journal, Charles Koch invited his critics to "try to understand my vision for a free society." It is easy to understand. Look at the Libertarian run he had for Vice President in 1982. They laid out what they wanted to do: privatize Social Security, basically do away with government. So to his critics he said, "Try to understand my vision of a free society."

That is pretty easy to do. How could we possibly understand the Kochs' vision, though, when they and their loyal followers try to do everything in secrecy? They hide from America. The truth is the Koch brothers are concealing their massive fundraising because Americans overwhelmingly oppose the purchase of our country. Our country shouldn't be for sale, and it isn't for sale, and I think in a little less than 5 minutes that can be proven.

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



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Instead of making the case directly to the American people, the Koch brothers funnel unseemly amounts of money into elections, trying to elect representatives who will do their bidding. Again in the paper today, they have all these phony organizations they fund. It is just a way to hide the agenda of the Koch brothers. They don't want their name to appear. They want to do everything they can to mislead the American people.

The influence of unlimited spending on a political system is not right. It allows individuals to dictate their will on the American electoral process, and in this instance in secret. This unlimited campaign spending disenfranchises Americans who don't have the resources to go tit-for-tat with two of the richest men in the world.

When the minority leader was a freshman Senator, he also took exception to the limitless spending of special interests. He said:

If the American public thinks that special interests are having undue influence on the process, then get rid of the PACs. I will be more than happy to eliminate PACs altogether.

But I guess times have changed. Now the Republican leader rails against campaign finance reform when in the past he was in favor. There should be no surprise that he attended the Kochs' planning session this past weekend. Evidently Senator MCCONNELL no longer believes that special interests have an undue influence on our government.

But he wasn't the only member to attend the Koch extravaganza. The junior Senator from Florida found the time to fly across the country and kiss the ring of the Republican Party's billionaire benefactors and, among other things, told them how outrageous it is that people are talking about the climate changing, that the Earth is warming. I am sure the junior Senator got a lot of applause there, even though we were not able to hear the applause because it is all very secret.

What else should we expect? The decisions by the Supreme Court have left the American people with the status quo in which one side's billionaires are pitted against the other side's billionaires—except one side doesn't have any billionaires.

We must undo the damage done by the Supreme Court's recent campaign finance decisions, and we need to do it now. That is why I support the constitutional amendment sponsored by Senators TOM UDALL of New Mexico and MICHAEL BENNET of Colorado. This constitutional amendment grants Congress the authority to regulate and eliminate the raising and spending of money for Federal elections. Senators UDALL and BENNET's amendment will rein in the massive spending of super PACs which have grown so much since the Citizens United decision in January of 2010. This constitutional amendment also provides States with the authority to institute campaign spending limits at the State level.

Simply put, a constitutional amendment is what this Nation needs to bring sanity back to political campaigns and to restore Americans' confidence in their elected leaders.

Let's put an end to the cult of darkness which is corrupting our elections. It is time we revive our constituents' faith in the electoral system and let them know their voices are being heard.

Mr. DURBIN. Will the majority leader yield to a question through the Chair?

Mr. REID. Be happy to.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask the majority leader through the Chair, yesterday afternoon the subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary on the Constitution held a hearing and a vote on Senate Joint Resolution 19, which the majority leader has referenced, offered by Senator UDALL of New Mexico and Senator BENNET of Colorado.

The resolution would basically restore us to the moment in time before the Citizens United decision and before the McCutcheon Supreme Court decision which would allow the Federal Government and the States to regulate campaign spending. It is content neutral in terms of the efforts to be made by the government but reestablishes new standards in terms of contributions in spending across America.

I ask the Senate majority leader, who has followed this closely, as he has followed the amount of money being spent on elections in this country, what he can foresee as the ultimate result if we fail to undo the Citizens United decision?

Mr. REID. We are already seeing it, I am sad to say. In one State the Koch brothers have spent almost \$20 million against one Senator, and they say that is just the beginning.

America should not be for sale. I agree with the Republican leader when he said there should be limits put on this. I agreed, as I read the quote from his earlier remarks, it is not right.

Now we have two of the richest men in the world trying to buy America, and they are not only trying to buy Senate seats and House seats, there are votes on secretaries of state around the country, State legislatures. They have far more money than virtually every government and they want to have their view of government be the law: Privatize Social Security, do away with the Internal Revenue Service, and on and on with their money-buying program to convince the American people that the Koch brothers are right.

Mr. President, I would also say this through the Chair to my friend. They not only have all these entities I have talked to you about, they give money to the Chamber of Commerce. I am sure they were their largest contributor. Why? Because the Chamber of Commerce runs ads against us.

I appreciate the question and I would like to go on a little longer but the Republican leader is here.

I will close, but I deeply appreciate my friend who has been such an advo-

cate on the Judiciary Committee and I hope very soon that the full committee reports on that resolution so we can move it on the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

ENERGY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, last night the Senate Deomocratic leadership pulled the Energy and Water bill from consideration for one reason: to protect the administration's new job-killing coal regulations. So once again Senate Democrats are preventing my commonsense procoal measure from moving forward. They have done the bidding of the administration instead of listening to constituents back home. Kentucky families, especially our coal families, continue to struggle under the Obama economy.

The Senate Democratic leadership's latest action is yet another example of the lengths they are willing to go to defend the Obama administration's regulatory agenda—an agenda Washington Democrats seem willing to protect at all costs, even when supposedly pro-energy Senate Democrats try to make us think otherwise.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. President, historians will note that President Obama's national security policy has been noteworthy for its adherence to consistent objectives: drawing down our conventional and nuclear forces, withdrawing from Iraq and Afghanistan, surrendering the tools necessary to fight the war on terror, and placing substantial trust in international organizations and diplomacy. In short, he has displayed an inflexible commitment to policy positions that would completely erode America's standing in the world, and he has refused to change course even as circumstances have changed.

I, like many in the Senate, profoundly disagree with his view of America's role in the world. I disagree because I believe his attitude has left America weaker and will leave substantial problems to his successor.

I believe that we, as a superpower without imperialistic aims, have a duty to help maintain an international order and a balance of power, not out of altruism but out of national interest. And I believe that international order is best maintained through American military might. In fact, I believe that American military might forms its very backbone.

But President Obama has always been a reluctant Commander in Chief. It seems he has always seen things quite differently. That was clear from his first actions in office, and his more