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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Merciful God, a gracious and willing guest in every heart, thank You for the opportunities and privileges of this day. May Your peace rule within our Senators' hearts. As they remember how You have guided us in the past, give them strength for today and bright hopes for tomorrow. With the ebb and flow of life's seasons, may they grow more certain of Your reality and power. Lord, when much seems obscure to them, may they be even more faithful to the little they can clearly see. Continue to shower them and their loved ones with Your daily mercies.

We pray in Your holy 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 25, 2014.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD J. MARKEY, a

Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MARKEY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, the Hagan sportsmen's legislation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 384, S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of the Republican leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until noon, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. The Republicans will control the first 30 minutes and the majority will control the next 30 minutes.

At noon the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.R. 803, the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. At 2:30 p.m. there will be three rollcall votes on amendments and passage of the bill.

WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

Mr. President, this afternoon the Senate will consider and pass the bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. While the unemployment rate has steadily declined since the recession and more than 9 million

private sector jobs have been created, too many Americans are still unemployed or lack the tools necessary to compete for today's jobs. That is why this legislation, which updates and streamlines our Nation's job training and local workforce development programs, is so vital.

This legislation is very complicated, very complex, and it is vital. It proves the mere fact that even though this legislation is complicated, complex, and vital, we can pass it. This act will help improve training and educational opportunities for those Americans looking for a job or to advance their careers. It will also help businesses grow and strengthen local economies across the whole country. In Nevada tens of thousands have benefited from the job training placement and educational programs funded by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. Many found their first job while others were able to reenter the workforce, and still others took advantage of the programs to improve their skills. For all of them it meant a paycheck, and for some of them it meant a raise to support their families. This legislation is also an example of how the Senate can and should function.

I repeat, this legislation is not a walk in the park. It is extremely complicated. It shows how Congress can operate when both sides are willing to compromise and work in good faith to craft legislation that will help improve the lives of Americans.

It has not been easy. This program was last authorized in 1998. Think of how much the world has changed over the last 16 years. Look at the Internet. It has transformed training and education programs and even the way most Americans look for work.

Over the past 16 years there have been several attempts to reauthorize this legislation, and they have all fallen short. After 16 years of attempts, it is even more impressive that Chairman HARKIN, Senators MURRAY, ALEXANDER,

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



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and ISAKSON, along with their counterparts in the House, were able to forge a bicameral, bipartisan agreement. Congratulations to each of these Senators and the House Members who worked with them. They worked in a bipartisan, bicameral way, which resulted in successful legislation.

In basketball they say if you are not doing well, you just have a lot of off days and that the best way for a shooter to get his rhythm back is to sink a couple of baskets. I hope this theory proves true in the Senate. It is time we sank a couple of baskets. It is time for us to start working together so we can get things done. Hopefully, by witnessing the success of a good bipartisan bill such as this, the Senate will get its rhythm back.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following the disposition of H.R. 803, which is the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar Nos. 499, 501, and 787; and that the Senate proceed to vote on the confirmation of the nominations in the order listed; further, if any nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that no further motions be in order to the nominations; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD and that President Obama be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

KEYSTONE PIPELINE

Mr. McCONNELL. Influence—it is a word we hear a lot these days, especially from our friends on the other side who suddenly feel the need to convince their constituents that they are “moderate” Democrats, despite the voting records that say just the opposite. These Senate Democrats can't stop boasting about how much supposed influence they have on energy issues, but it is a baffling claim to the rest of us because it is so hard to point to what they have actually accomplished.

Take the Keystone Pipeline. The Senate Democrats I am referring to claim to have so much influence within their party to get it approved, but the evidence actually leads to the opposite conclusion; that they have almost none at all. When it comes right down to it, they have not even been able to secure a serious, gimmick-free floor vote from the majority leader to approve the Keystone Pipeline. That should be the bare minimum.

The events that transpired yesterday only underscore the point. Yesterday

afternoon several of my Republican colleagues again tried to pass the Keystone Pipeline. Once again, the Democratic leadership blocked the bill, and the so-called moderate Democrats simply stood by while their own party blocked this important job-creation legislation. They didn't even put up a credible fight.

It is disappointing, but it is no surprise because Washington Democrats have blocked approval of this shovel-ready, job-creation project for years now, even though it would create thousands of well-paying American jobs, even though it would help our struggling economy, even though it would increase North American energy independence, and even though the Obama administration has admitted that constructing the pipeline would have almost zero significant impact on the environment.

In other words, the Senate Democratic leadership is obstructing construction of the Keystone Pipeline for one main reason—to please their patrons on the far left. Let's be clear about something. The only reason they are able to get away with it is because so-called moderate Democrats let them, the same so-called moderates who claim to have so much influence around here.

The bottom line is these so-called moderates can't have it both ways. They can't credibly claim to have influence on issues such as these, even as they let their party leaders shoot down almost every effort to achieve the things they claim to want, such as Keystone.

Frankly, it is hard to see how we could ever hope to get a Keystone bill over to the President's desk and signed into law while Democrats run the Senate, especially when the so-called moderates stand idly by as the President has yet another meeting with the anti-Keystone jobs lobby tonight. The President is meeting with an anti-Keystone fundraiser today and will be hearing from an organization with a mission to stop these important jobs. He needs to hear from Americans across the country who are desperate for work in the Obama economy. Preaching to the choir is not going to get that done.

Ironically enough, the President will be meeting with these same anti-Keystone interests right after holding a pep rally with Senate Democrats—his reliable anti-Keystone backstop in Congress.

I think it is time to put aside the charade. The American people have already had to suffer through more than 5 years of delay and obfuscation on this pipeline. The bureaucrats and the experts have studied it to death over and over and over, and every time we learn basically the very same thing: There is a ton of upside to building Keystone and minimal substantive downside.

It is time to end all the politically motivated delays and get serious around here. It is time for Democrats

who claim to support these important jobs to stand up to the party bosses and stand with their constituents and not just talk about doing it. We owe it to the American people to get these Keystone Pipeline jobs approved as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, it seems increasingly clear that will never happen under the current Democratic-run Senate, but one way or another, we need to get this done.

I yield the floor.

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 12 noon, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the Republicans controlling the first 30 minutes and the majority controlling the next 30 minutes.

The Senator from South Dakota.

KEYSTONE PIPELINE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in a moment some of my colleagues will come to the floor and ask to enter into a colloquy and discuss an issue that is important to many of us, especially to those of us who represent States in the West and Midwest.

The issue I wish to speak about has to do with something that over the past 5 years the Obama administration has been particularly active in pursuing.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, will my friend allow me to ask a question through the Chair?

Mr. THUNE. Yes.

Mr. REID. I was in my office when I heard the statement by the Republican leader about Keystone. I direct this question to the Senator from South Dakota, who is a fine Senator and understands energy issues.

We agreed to have a vote on Keystone. My friend, the Republican leader, keeps misdirecting the matter. We can have a vote on Keystone. That was part of the deal we made. We had a bipartisan bill, Portman-Shaheen. They worked on that bill for months, since last fall. They put in amendments that people wanted.

JEANNE SHAHEEN came here yesterday and said: Let's have a vote on Keystone, but just as long as we can have a vote on energy efficiency. She even suggested we could have a vote using the McConnell rule—a 60-vote threshold—on both of them.

This is so transparent that my friend the Republican leader is doing the bidding again of the Koch brothers, who own the first or second largest tar