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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 8, 2011, at 2 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2011

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK BEGICH, a Senator from the State of Alaska.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, strengthen the desire of our Senators to serve You. May they join You in bringing peace, justice, and order to our Nation and the world. Confirm the wisdom of their service in the joy they receive from doing Your will. Lord, fill them with Your spirit so they can discover creative ways to meet the challenges of our time. Give them courage to change their minds when it is needed in order to travel along a more productive path. Let integrity be the hallmark of their characters.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK BEGICH 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, February 4, 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 BEGICH, a Senator from the State of Alaska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BEGICH 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 proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes this morning. We have made significant progress on the FAA authorization bill this week and will make more progress next week. The Finance Committee is going to report out legislation on Tuesday, a funding amendment for this most important piece of legislation. We hope to complete action on this bill early in the week of February 14.

Today I will continue to work with the Republican leader on an agreement to vote Monday on the confirmation of several executive nominations.

There will be no rollcall votes during today's session of the Senate.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 289, S. 290, S. 291, EN BLOC

Mr. REID. I understand there are three bills ready for their second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bills by title en bloc.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 289) to extend expiring provisions of the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005, the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, and the FISA Amendments Act of 2008 until December 31, 2013, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 290) to extend the sunset of certain provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 291) to repeal the sunset provisions in the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 and other related provisions and permanently reauthorize the USA PATRIOT Act.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings with respect to each of these three bills.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bills will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. REID. 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. HOEVEN. 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.

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



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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, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from North Dakota.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I would like to speak this morning in support of amendment No. 32. This amendment introduces new language to section 320 of the Federal Aviation Administration's authorization bill concerning unmanned aerial systems. It has been offered by Senator ENSIGN, Senator CONRAD, and myself.

It calls for the FAA to develop a process to integrate unmanned aerial systems—unmanned aerial vehicles and remotely piloted aircraft—into the National Airspace System.

We have all seen on television and read in the media about the remarkable role unmanned aerial vehicles and remotely piloted aircraft are playing overseas in the security of our Nation in the war on terror. They achieve military objectives without putting our men and women in uniform in harm's way.

Unmanned aerial systems will continue to play that vital role in our Nation's security abroad, but they are also poised to play a big role here at home in other important areas as well—areas such as enhancing our ability to patrol our borders and secure vital infrastructure, fight crime, detect wildfires, provide valuable crop data for our farmers, and respond to emergencies such as floods and fires.

I can give you a practical and personal example of their value. Two years ago, when my home State, along with our neighbor to the east, Minnesota, was battling flooding in the Red River Valley—many of you throughout the country saw this on television—Predator aircraft on loan from Customs and Border Patrol gave us real-time data on the status of ice jams and overland flooding all along the river and made a real difference in helping us to fight those floods and protect our citizens.

That vital information enabled both States to deploy resources in a timely and efficient manner and made a real difference for the people of North Dakota and Minnesota and throughout the region. Just a few years ago, that would have been the stuff of science fiction, a vision of the future. But today it is reality, and we can do much more.

In fact, unmanned aerial systems are about just that—they are about the fu-

ture of aviation technology in America, and I am proud to say our State of North Dakota is playing an important role in that endeavor.

The Grand Forks Air Force Base in northeastern North Dakota is already home to Predator B aircraft that fly missions for Customs and Border Protection, and it will soon be home to the Global Hawk as well. Right now, overseas, Predator missions are being operated by our North Dakota Air Guard in Fargo, ND.

The Grand Forks Air Force Base is also a partner with the State's Unmanned Aircraft Systems Center of Excellence and UND—the University of North Dakota—School of Aerospace. These programs provide access to state-of-the-art training and technologies for the base.

Our Center of Excellence operates up to nine unmanned aircraft and is in the process of installing UAS simulators and training programs to prepare a generation of young pilots for this rapidly growing field.

The program is designed to combine the visionary thinking of researchers with the practical energy of entrepreneurs and businesses. In fact, the commercial applications of unmanned aircraft and the opportunities for America's aviation industry are enormous.

UAV spending will more than double over the next decade, from current worldwide UAV expenditures of \$4.9 billion annually to \$11.5 billion annually, totaling just over \$80 billion for the next 10 years, according to a 2010 Teal Group market study.

Here and abroad, our Nation has led the way in this breakthrough technology. But we need to do more. We need to seize the opportunity, and this amendment provides our opportunity to not only maintain but build on that leadership position.

This amendment will authorize the FAA to set up pilot projects in the United States that will develop a plan for these aircraft to fly safely either concurrently or in layered air zones in our Nation's skies.

We need them to develop air traffic requirements, as well as certification and flight standards, for unmanned aerial systems to fly in the national airspace.

We are already flying UAVs in airspace all over the world. Now we need to open the skies for them right here at home to make our Nation more secure, our communities safer, our economy more dynamic, and create jobs and opportunity throughout our country. If we do not, you can be sure other nations will. The goal is to make UAVs, with all their remarkable capabilities, a fully functioning, fully empowered component of America's aviation system.

American industry and ingenuity can continue to lead the way. They can continue to lead the way forward in the world of aviation, but we must provide the environment that enables our avia-

tion industry to do it right here at home. This amendment will help us do that. I strongly urge support for this amendment.

I yield the floor and 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. SESSIONS. 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.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, the news broke this morning concerning the jobs report for January. The numbers came in that we only added 36,000 new jobs to the U.S. economy. The Wall Street Journal lead is, "Economy Adds Few Jobs." It is a difficult matter. Some say maybe the weather had something to do with it. The Washington Post report noted that job creation was far less than economists had predicted.

Mr. President, 36,000 might sound pretty good, at least not bad; but in truth it is not good. Mr. Bernanke, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve, testified before our Budget Committee—of which the Presiding Officer, Senator BEGICH, is a member—that our economy needs to produce about 150,000 jobs a month—it needs to add that many—to stay even. We need to be adding about 250,000 a month to begin to reduce unemployment in a significant way.

The numbers were mixed. Some people saw some good news in the report. The Household Survey showed a drop in unemployment, which was not a bad. But I think the low number of actual jobs created was pretty troubling.

I will say a few things I believe are important and need to be understood.

This Congress passed a stimulus package that was supposed to keep unemployment from going above 8 percent. It went to 9.6. It has dropped some since then, but it is still extraordinarily high. We passed that package, and it did not stop unemployment from rising. It was based on the Keynesian concept of government borrowing money to spend into the economy on the theory that government can create jobs.

Not long before the vote, Gary Becker, the Nobel Prize-winning economist from the University of Chicago, wrote an op-ed. In it he said he examined the proposal and that it was far too ineffective in creating jobs and economic growth. He warned that it would not be effective. He warned that the growth factor was below 1. It should be above 1. He said maybe .7, and that this, in his opinion, was not a good investment of \$800 billion. Every penny of it was borrowed. We did not have that money. We decided to borrow the money in an attempt to stimulate the economy.