



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 157

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2011

No. 149

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by the Reverend D. Edward Chaney, senior pastor of Second Baptist Church in Las Vegas, NV.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Bless us now, O God. Touch our hearts, for without Your love, light, and life, we are nothing.

Give our lawmakers strength and courage as they make decisions today that impact the lives of all Americans.

Lord, remove the divisive spirit that prohibits true transformation and allow Your presence to become not just common but harmonious. Through our dedication, commitment, and sacrifice, we thank You for cleansing us from the ills of this world and making us fit to serve and honor You.

We ask these blessings in Your Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE 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, October 6, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

WELCOMING REVEREND CHANEY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have the rare opportunity today to introduce and say a few words about the guest Chaplain. Reverend Chaney has just delivered, as usual, an eloquent invocation.

Reverend Chaney is originally from South Carolina, but for the last 2 years he has led the flock of the Second Baptist Church in Las Vegas, one of the oldest, extremely well-established, and largest churches in Las Vegas, NV. He is a man who is involved in the community very deeply. He serves on the board of the Urban League and the NAACP.

In addition to his service in the spiritual realm, he has also served as a patriot in our Nation's armed services. He served in the Navy for 4 years, as has our Chaplain, Dr. Barry Black. They were both naval officers. Reverend Chaney recently retired as chaplain of the U.S. Air Force Reserve at Nellis Air Force Base.

I have met with Reverend Chaney under very unique circumstances on a number of occasions. He is a wonderful human being. He is one of those rare

people who have such a pleasant demeanor. The minute a person meets him, they know he is a man of great substance and spiritual quality. So I am very happy to welcome Reverend Chaney and his wife Avis to Washington.

I thank the pastor for the inspiring invocation, which I hope will guide the Senate's action today.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1619, the China currency legislation. The deadline for second-degree amendments to that legislation is at 10 a.m. this morning. At 10:30, there will be a rollcall vote on the motion to invoke cloture on S. 1619.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1660

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am told that S. 1660 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1660) to provide tax relief for American workers and businesses, to put workers back on the job while rebuilding and modernizing America, and to provide pathways back to work for Americans looking for jobs.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to this legislation.

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

Mr. REID. I note 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.

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



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Mr. REID. 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.

CHINA CURRENCY MANIPULATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will hold a vote to advance legislation to end the underhanded practice of currency manipulation by the Chinese Government. This practice gives Chinese exports a tremendously unfair advantage over all the global markets but especially the one with our relations with China. It hurts American manufacturers and cheats American workers out of jobs. This practice has helped balloon America's trade deficit with China from \$10 billion to \$273 billion in the last 20 years, costing upwards of 3 million jobs. Too many of those lost jobs came from the manufacturing sector alone, which can't compete as long as the Chinese Government gives its exports special advantages.

This legislation is a chance to even a tilted playing field, to pump \$300 billion into our economy in 2 years, and support 1.6 million American jobs. That is why it has the support of labor unions and business groups. That is why it advanced with an overwhelming bipartisan vote on Monday. I believe there were 31 Republican votes on Monday.

I would remind my Republican colleagues that since the Senate began debate of this bill, China has made no move to correct the value of its currency. It is clear that merely considering congressional action will not solve this problem, so it is difficult for me to comprehend how people could be switching their votes from Monday to Thursday. We have offered to work with Republicans on an agreement to consider several germane amendments. I stand by that offer. We talked about that yesterday and, in fact, late last night. I repeat, more than 31 Republicans voted to advance this legislation earlier this week. So I am hopeful my colleagues on the other side will continue to work with us in a bipartisan fashion to advance this important job-creating legislation today.

I have indicated to the Republican leader that I have a meeting with three of my Senators at the White House at 5:30 this afternoon, so we either finish this bill if, in fact, cloture is invoked and we work out something on the amendments before 5:30 or we can come back tonight after the meeting at the White House or we can come back tomorrow, but we are going to complete work on this legislation before we leave, one way or the other. If cloture is not invoked, of course, that ends it, which I think would be a sad day for relations between China and the United States, to think we capitulated on something as important as this. But we are going to finish this legislation

today. I would like to do it before 5:30. We have the Jewish holiday that starts tomorrow at 5:30—it is actually an hour or so after that, so 20 until 7, sundown. But, anyway, we are going to continue working on this legislation until we complete it one way or the other.

AMERICAN JOBS ACT

Early next week, the Senate will begin debate on the American Jobs Act, which will create jobs while asking every American to contribute his or her fair share. This legislation will put construction crews back to work building the things that make our country stronger: modern bridges, roads, dams, sewers, water systems, and up-to-date schools where our children can get the best education possible.

FREE TRADE

I have spent a lot of time with the Republican leader, knowing how strongly he and some other Members of the Senate feel about the Colombia trade bill, the Korea trade agreement, and Panama. In spite of my not feeling so strongly about these—I am not a big fan of these matters—I am doing my best to advance this so we can have a vote, hopefully as early as Wednesday of next week.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

AMERICAN JOBS ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, what this week has shown beyond any doubt is that Democrats would rather talk about partisan legislation they won't pass than actually passing legislation we know would create jobs.

Two and a half years after the President signed his first stimulus, there are 1.7 million fewer jobs in this country. Now he wants to do it again. Why? Because Democrats think it makes for good politics.

This week, it was revealed that there wasn't enough support within the Democratic ranks to pass the President's so-called jobs bill—it was simply too partisan. So yesterday, instead of making it less partisan, they made it more so. By adding a tax on small business owners, they made it even less attractive to job creators rather than working with Republicans on legislation that would actually help create jobs.

I mean, what is our goal here? If the goal is to create jobs, then why are we even talking about tax hikes? The President himself has said that raising taxes is the last thing we want to do in a weak economy. That is the President of the United States. Even the White House predicts the unemployment rate will be high when this tax would kick in. So the real goal here for Democrats,

as far as I can tell, is entirely political. By arguing for a permanent tax hike to pay for a temporary stimulus, they are essentially admitting they are not particularly interested in creating jobs. Proposing a partisan tax hike 13 months before an election will not create one single job—not one. So I would suggest that our friends on the other side put away the playbook and work with us instead.

As I have said repeatedly, Republicans are ready to act right away with Democrats on bipartisan, job-creating legislation—on the three trade bills, for instance, on regulatory reform, increasing American energy production, and tax reform. All those things would help the economy, and all could be strongly—strongly—bipartisan. Yet Democratic leaders do not seem to be interested in working together.

Two days ago, for example, I offered the President his request to vote on his second stimulus. Our Democratic friends blocked the vote. Instead of working across the aisle with Republicans on solutions that would help put people back to work, Democrats have fallen back to tired talking points—the same, stale rhetoric we have heard literally for years. With 14 million Americans out of work, this is completely and totally unacceptable.

We are wasting valuable time. Despite the President assuring Americans that nobody is talking about raising taxes right now and that a down economy is a horrible time to raise taxes—again, this is what the President said—the new Democratic tax hike would take effect in a little over a year, when CBO tells us the unemployment rate will still be well over 8 percent.

It is no wonder the economy is stagnant, businesses are not hiring, and unemployment is at 9 percent. How can anyone be expected to make plans when the next "gotcha" tax hike to pay for this President's spending binge is always lurking right around the corner?

The President has said it is wrong to raise taxes in this weak economic environment. If he meant what he said, surely he will join me in opposing this unwise tax hike Senate Democrats have proposed.

Republicans, along with some Democrats, have progrowth solutions to help solve this crisis, but we will not stand for a permanent tax hike for a temporary stimulus that is largely a rehash of the same stimulus ideas this administration has already tried.

This bill is the same wasteful spending, the same burdensome union giveaways, and the same temporary tax policy that has failed the American people in the last 2 years.

This economy can grow and create jobs when Washington reduces spending and regulations, and by simplifying our incredibly complex tax system. This is what is needed to literally unleash the private sector.

It is time Democrats move beyond the political rhetoric and for the President to stop campaigning. It is time for