

## **SENATE FLOOR PROCEEDINGS**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2011**

The Senate will convene at 12:00 PM for a Pro Forma Session.

**The Senate convened at 12:00 PM and proceeded with a Pro Forma Session.**

The Senate will then next convene on the following date for a Pro Forma Session:  
Friday, December 30, 2011 at 11:00 AM.

The Second Session of the 112th Congress will convene on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 12:00 PM. It will conduct a Pro Forma Session only with no business conducted.

The Senate will then conduct Pro Forma Sessions on the following dates:

Friday, January 6, 2012 at 11:00 AM.

Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 11:00 AM.

Friday, January 13, 2012 at 12:00 PM.

Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 10:15 AM.

Friday, January 20, 2012 at 2:00 PM.

The Senate will next convene for business on Monday, January 23, 2012 at 2:00 PM. There will be in a period of Morning Business for two hours. At 4:00 PM, the Senate will proceed to an Executive Session to consider the nomination of Cal. #438 (John Gerrard to United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska). There will 90 minutes of debate on the nomination followed by a vote on confirmation at 5:30 PM. On Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 2:15 PM, the Senate will have a cloture vote on the Motion to Proceed to S. 968 ( Preventing Real Online Threats to Economic Creativity and Theft of Intellectual Property Act of 2011).

The Senate adjourned at 12:01 PM.

## SENATE FLOOR PROCEEDINGS

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2011**

The Senate will convene at 9:30 AM for a Pro Forma Session.

**The Senate convened at 9:30 AM and proceeded with a Legislative Session.**

A unanimous consent agreement was entered into the record. If the House passes and sends to the Senate a bill which is identical to the text of a two month extension of the reduced payroll tax, unemployment insurance, TANF, and the Medicare payment fix, that the bill be read three times and passed. Further, the Senate having received a Message from the House requesting a conference with respect to H. R. 3630, the Senate insisted on its amendment and agreed to the request for a conference and the Chair was authorized to appoint conferees. Lastly, if the House does not act by January 1, 2012, with respect to passage of a bill providing the two month extension, the Senate action with respect to the conference on H. R. 3630, be vitiated.

**H. R. 3736 (Extend the payroll tax holiday, unemployment compensation, Medicare physician payment, provide for the consideration of the Keystone XL pipeline). The bill was received from the House, read three times and passed by unanimous consent.**

The Senate will then next convene on the following dates for Pro Forma Sessions:

Tuesday, December 27, 2011 at 12:00 PM.

Friday, December 30, 2011 at 11:00 AM.

The Second Session of the 112th Congress will convene on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 12:00 PM. It will conduct a Pro Forma Session only with no business conducted.

The Senate will then conduct Pro Forma Sessions on the following dates:

Friday, January 6, 2012 at 11:00 AM.

Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 11:00 AM.

Friday, January 13, 2012 at 12:00 PM.

Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 10:15 AM.

Friday, January 20, 2012 at 2:00 PM.

The Senate will next convene for business on Monday, January 23, 2012 at 2:00 PM. There will be in a period of Morning Business for two hours. At 4:00 PM, the Senate will proceed to an Executive Session to consider the nomination of Cal. #438 (John Gerrard to United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska). There will 90 minutes of debate on the nomination followed by a vote on confirmation at 5:30 PM. On Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 2:15 PM, the

**Senate will have a cloture vote on the Motion to Proceed to S. 968 ( Preventing Real Online Threats to Economic Creativity and Theft of Intellectual Property Act of 2011).**

**The Senate adjourned at 9:31 AM.**

## **SENATE FLOOR PROCEEDINGS**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2011**

The Senate will convene at 11:00 AM for a Pro Forma Session. The Senate will then convene on the following dates for Pro Forma Sessions:

Friday, December 23, 2011 at 9:30 AM.

Tuesday, December 27, 2011 at 12:00 PM.

Friday, December 30, 2011 at 11:00 AM.

The Second Session of the 112th Congress will convene on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 12:00 PM. It will conduct a Pro Forma Session only with no business conducted.

The Senate will then conduct Pro Forma Sessions on the following dates:

Friday, January 6, 2012 at 11:00 AM.

Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 11:00 AM.

Friday, January 13, 2012 at 12:00 PM.

Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 10:15 AM.

Friday, January 20, 2012 at 2:00 PM.

The Senate will next convene for business on Monday, January 23, 2012 at 2:00 PM. There will be in a period of Morning Business for two hours. At 4:00 PM, the Senate will proceed to an Executive Session to consider the nomination of Cal. #438 (John Gerrard to United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska). There will 90 minutes of debate on the nomination followed by a vote on confirmation at 5:30 PM. On Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 2:15 PM, the Senate will have a cloture vote on the Motion to Proceed to S. 968 ( Preventing Real Online Threats to Economic Creativity and Theft of Intellectual Property Act of 2011).

**The Senate convened at 11:00 AM and proceeded with a Pro Forma Session.**

The Senate will then convene on the following dates for Pro Forma Sessions:

Friday, December 23, 2011 at 9:30 AM.

Tuesday, December 27, 2011 at 12:00 PM.

Friday, December 30, 2011 at 11:00 AM.

The Second Session of the 112th Congress will convene on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 12:00 PM. It will conduct a Pro Forma Session only with no business conducted.

The Senate will then conduct Pro Forma Sessions on the following dates:

Friday, January 6, 2012 at 11:00 AM.

Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 11:00 AM.

Friday, January 13, 2012 at 12:00 PM.

Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 10:15 AM.

Friday, January 20, 2012 at 2:00 PM.

The Senate will next convene for business on Monday, January 23, 2012 at 2:00 PM. There will be in a period of Morning Business for two hours. At 4:00 PM, the Senate will proceed to an Executive Session to consider the nomination of Cal. #438 (John Gerrard to United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska). There will 90 minutes of debate on the nomination followed by a vote on confirmation at 5:30 PM. On Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 2:15 PM, the Senate will have a cloture vote on the Motion to Proceed to S. 968 ( Preventing Real Online Threats to Economic Creativity and Theft of Intellectual Property Act of 2011).

The Senate adjourned at 11:03 AM.

## **SENATE FLOOR PROCEEDINGS**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2011**

The Senate will convene at 9:00 AM and will proceed to H.R. 3630 (Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2011). Sen. Reid will be recognized to offer a Reid-McConnell Substitute amendment (2-Month extension of the payroll tax reduction, doc fix and unemployment insurance). The Senate will then immediately vote in relation to the Substitute amendment, which is subject to a 60-affirmative threshold for passage. If the Substitute amendment is agreed to, the bill will be read a third time and passed by Voice Vote.

Following the first vote, there will be up to 15 minutes of debate prior to votes on the remaining three bills:

- H.R. 3672 (Emergency Disaster Funding), subject to a 60-affirmative threshold.
- H. Con. Res. 94 (Correcting resolution to provide offsets for the emergency disaster funding), subject to a 60-affirmative threshold.
- Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 2055 (Omnibus Appropriations), subject to a 60-vote threshold.

The Senate convened and proceeded with a Legislative Session.

**H.R. 3630 (Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2011).**

**Reid-McConnell Substitute amendment #1465 (2-Month extension of the payroll tax reduction, doc fix and unemployment insurance).** The amendment is subject to an affirmative 60-vote threshold for passage. Yeas and nays ordered. The amendment was agreed to by a vote of **89-10**.

**H.R. 3630 (Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2011).** Reid amend #1466 (Amend the Title of the bill so as to read: A bill to extend the payroll tax holiday, unemployment compensation, Medicare physician payment, provide for the consideration of the Keystone XL pipeline, and for other purposes) was agreed to by unanimous consent. **The bill as amended was passed by Voice Vote.**

**Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 2055 (Omnibus Appropriations).** Laid aside.

**H.R. 3672 (Emergency Disaster Funding).** The bill is subject to an affirmative 60-vote threshold for passage. Yeas and nays ordered. The bill passed by a vote of **72-27**.

**H. Con. Res. 94 (Correcting resolution to provide offsets for the emergency disaster funding).** The resolution is subject to an affirmative 60-vote threshold for passage. Yeas and nays ordered. The resolution was not agreed to by a vote of **43-56**.

**Senate Res. 349 (Commemorating and honoring the service and sacrifice of members of the United States Armed Forces and their families as the official combat mission in Iraq draws to a close).** Agreed to by Voice Vote.

**Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 2055 (Omnibus Appropriations).** The Conference Report is subject to an affirmative 60-vote threshold for adoption. Yeas and nays ordered. The Conference Report was adopted by a vote of **67-32**.

The Senate proceeded with a period of Morning Business.

The Senate proceeded to an Executive Session.

Reid unanimous consent request that all the nominations received by the Senate during the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, first session, remain in status quo, notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXXI, paragraph 6, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, with the following exceptions:

Cal. #43 (Caitlin Halligan to be US Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia).

Cal. #67 (Philip Coyle to be an Associate Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy).

Cal. #112 (William J. Boarman to be Public Printer of the Government Printing Office).

Cal. #185 (Michael Green to be US District Judge for the Western District of New York).

Cal. #413 (Richard Cordray of Ohio to be Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection).

PN2

PN14

PN95

PN96

PN158

PN317

PN653

The unanimous consent request was agreed to.

The Senate proceeded to an Executive Session and confirmed the following nominations en bloc by unanimous consent:

Cal. # 421 (Joyce Barr to be Assistant Secretary of State).

Cal. # 503 (Michael McFail to be Ambassador to the Russian Federation).

Cal. # 529 (Brad Carson to be General Counsel of the Department of the Army).

Cal. # 531 (Col. Merle D. Hart to be Brigadier General in the Air Force).

Cal. # 532 (Lt. Gen. Frank Gorenc to be Lieutenant General in the Air Force).  
Cal. # 533 (Col. Brian Dominguez to be Brigadier General in the Air Force).  
Cal. # 534 (Col. John Currenti to be Brigadier General in the Air Force).  
Cal. # 535 (Thirty-six Air Force Colonels, with the exception of Colonel Bradley Spacy, to be Brigadier Generals in the Air Force).  
Cal. # 536 (Brig. Gen. Michael Lally to be Major General in the Army).  
Cal. # 537 (Thirty-two Colonels in the Army to be Brigadier Generals in the Army).  
Cal. # 538 (Brig. Gen. Lynn Collyar to be Major General in the Army).  
Cal. # 539 (Major Gen. Mary Legere to be Lt. Gen. in the Army).  
Cal. # 540 (Col. Jimmie Keenan to be Maj. General in the Army).  
All the nominations placed on the Secretary's Desk were confirmed by unanimous consent.

The Senate resumed a Legislative Session.

H.J. Res. 95 (Making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2012). Agreed to by unanimous consent.

S. 1874 (HUBZone Qualified Census Tract Act of 2011). Agreed to by unanimous consent.

S. 1959 (Haqqani Network Terrorist Designation Act of 2011 ).Agreed to by unanimous consent.

S. 1710 (A bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 222 West 7th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska, as the James M. Fitzgerald United States Courthouse). Agreed to by unanimous consent.

H.R. 1264 (To designate the property between the United States Federal Courthouse and the Ed Jones Building located at 109 South Highland Avenue in Jackson, Tennessee, as the "M.D. Anderson Plaza" and to authorize the placement of a historical/identification marker on the grounds recognizing the achievements and philanthropy of M.D. Anderson.) Agreed to by unanimous consent.

H.R. 7089 (). Agreed to by unanimous consent.

HR 2422 (To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 45 Bay Street, Suite 2, in Staten Island, New York, as the "Sergeant Angel Mendez Post Office").Agreed to by unanimous consent.

S. Res. 351 (Alaska Native People's Achievements over the past 40 years). Agreed to by unanimous consent.

H.R. 440 ( To provide for the establishment of the Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia). The bill was read for the first time. The second reading was objected to.

H.R. 3012 (Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act of 2011). The bill was read for the first time. The second reading was objected to.

Reid filed cloture on the Motion to Proceed to S. 968 ( Preventing Real Online Threats to Economic Creativity and Theft of Intellectual Property Act of 2011). The cloture vote on the motion to proceed will occur at 2:15 PM on Tuesday, January 24, 2012.

The Senate will convene on Tuesday, December 20, 2011 at 11:00 AM for a pro forma session. The Senate will then convene on the following dates for pro forma sessions:

Friday, December 23, 2011 at 9:30 AM.

Tuesday, December 27, 2011 at 12:00 PM.

Friday, December 30, 2011 at 11:00 AM.

The Second Session of the 112th Congress will convene on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 at 12:00 PM for a pro forma session only with no business conducted and that following the pro forma session, the Senate will adjourn and convene for pro forma sessions only with no business conducted on the following dates and times and that following each pro forma session, the Senate adjourn until the following pro forma session:

Friday, January 6, 2012 at 11:00 AM.

Tuesday, January 10, 2012 at 11:00 AM.

Friday, January 13, 2012 at 12:00 PM.

Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 10:15 AM.

Friday, January 20, 2012 at 2:00 PM.

The Senate will next convene on Monday, January 23, 2012 at 2:00 PM and will be in a period of Morning Business for two hours. At 4:00 PM, the Senate will proceed to an Executive Session to consider the following nomination:

Cal. #438 (John Gerrard to United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska). There will 90 minutes of debate on the nomination followed by a vote on confirmation at 5:30 PM. On Tuesday, January 24, 2012 at 2:15 PM, the Senate will have a cloture vote on the Motion to Proceed to S. 968 ( Preventing Real Online Threats to Economic Creativity and Theft of Intellectual Property Act of 2011).

The Senate adjourned at 3:33 PM.

## **SENATE FLOOR PROCEEDINGS**

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2011**

The Senate will convene at 10:00 AM and will proceed with a period of Morning Business until 12:00 PM. Leadership announced that unless a deal is reached, the Senate will proceed to a vote on the Motion to Invoke Cloture on the Motion to Proceed to H. R. 3630 (Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2011) at some time in the morning of Saturday, December 17, 2011.

The Senate convened and proceeded with a period of Morning Business.

H.R. 3094 (Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act). The bill was read for the second time. Further consideration was objected to and the bill was placed on the calendar.

S. 2009 (A bill to improve the administration of programs in the insular areas). Agreed to by unanimous consent.

The Senate will be in a period of Morning Business until 5:00 PM.

The Senate recessed at 6:18 PM Subject to the Call of the Chair.

The Senate convened at 8:15 PM.

H. J. Res. 94 (24-hour Continuing Resolution). Agreed to by Unanimous Consent.

The Senate proceeded to a period of Morning Business.

The Senate will convene at 9:00 AM on Saturday, December 17, 2011 and will proceed to H.R. 3630 (Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2011) and Sen. Reid will be recognized to offer a Reid-McConnell Substitute amendment (2-Month extension of the payroll tax reduction, doc fix and unemployment insurance). The Senate will then immediately vote in relation to the Substitute amendment, which is subject to a 60-affirmative threshold for passage. If the Substitute amendment is agreed to, the bill be read a third time and passed by Voice Vote. Following the first vote, there will be up to 15 minutes of debate prior to votes on the remaining three bills:

H.R. 3672 (Emergency Disaster Funding), subject to a 60-affirmative threshold

H. Con. Res. 94 (Correcting resolution to provide offsets for the emergency disaster funding), subject to a 60-affirmative threshold

Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 2055 (Omnibus Appropriations), subject to a 60-vote threshold

**The Senate adjourned at 8:38 PM.**

## **SENATE FLOOR PROCEEDINGS**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2011**

The Senate will convene at 9:30 AM and will be in a period of Morning Business for one hour. At 10:30 AM, the Senate will proceed to an Executive Session to consider Cal. #337 (Morgan Christen, of Alaska, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit). There will be 30 minutes of debate on the nomination. At 11:00 AM the Senate will resume a Legislative Session. At a time to be determined, the Senate will resume Executive Session to consider the Christen nomination; there will be two minutes of debate followed by a vote on confirmation. Senator Reid announced that he expects the Senate to consider the DOD Authorization Conference Report and the Payroll tax bill during today's session.

The Senate convened and proceeded with a period of Morning Business.

Durbin unanimous consent:

- Upon the use or yielding back of time on the Christen nomination, Senator McCain will be recognized for up to 30 minutes as if in morning business.
- Following Senator McCain's remarks the Senate will proceed to the Conference Report to accompany H.R. 1540 (The Department of Defense Authorization bill) for three hours of debate.
- At a time to be determined, the Senate will vote on adoption of the Conference Report.
- Upon disposition of the Conference Report the Senate will proceed to consideration of H. Con. Res. 92 (Directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to correct the enrollment of the bill H.R. 1540).

The unanimous consent request was agreed to.

Senator Reid announced the Senate will likely have a series of votes at 4:00 PM today.

The Senate resumed a Legislative Session.

**Conference Report to accompany H.R. 1540 (Department of Defense Authorization bill).** The Conference Report was agreed to by a vote of **86-13**.

H. Con. Res. 92 (Correct the enrollment of H. R. 1540). Agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate proceeded to an Executive Session.

**Cal. #337 (Morgan Christen, of Alaska, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit).** The nomination was agreed to by a vote of **95-3**.

The Senate proceeded with a period of Morning Business until 7:00 PM.

**Motion to Proceed to H. R. 3630 (Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2011).**  
Motion to Invoke Cloture on the Motion to Proceed to the bill. Unless time is yielded back, the Senate will vote on the Cloture Motion on the morning of Saturday, December 17, 2011.

H. R. 3421 (Award Congressional Gold Medals in honor of the men and women who perished in the terrorist attacks that occurred September 11, 2001). Agreed to by unanimous consent.

H. Con. Res. 93 (Correction to the enrollment of H.R. 2845, Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011). Agreed to by unanimous consent.

S. 1612 (Targeting Transnational Drug Trafficking Act of 2011). Agreed to by unanimous consent, as amended.

S. Res. 347 (Recognizing the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Cancer Act of 1971 and the more than 12,000,000 survivors of cancer alive today because of the commitment of the United States to cancer research and advances in cancer prevention, detection, diagnosis, and treatment). Agreed to by unanimous consent.

H. R. 3094 (Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act). The first reading of the bill was agreed to by unanimous consent. The second reading of the bill was objected to.

The Senate will convene at 10:00 AM on Friday, December 16, 2011 and will proceed with a period of Morning Business until 12:00 PM. Leadership announced that unless a deal is reached, the Senate will proceed to a vote on the Motion to Invoke Cloture on the Motion to Proceed to H. R. 3630 (Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2011) at some time in the morning of Saturday, December 17, 2011.

The Senate adjourned at 7:03 PM.

## SENATE FLOOR PROCEEDINGS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2011

The Senate will convene at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, December 14, 2011 and will be in a period of Morning Business for one hour. The Senate will then proceed to a Legislative Session and resume consideration of the following resolutions en bloc:

S. J. Res. 10 (Joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States introduced by Senator Hatch).

S. J. Res. 24 (Joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States introduced by Senator Udall).

At approximately 10:45 AM, the Senate will vote on the above resolutions. Senator Reid announced that he also hopes to consider the DOD Authorization Conference Report and the House-passed Payroll tax bill during today's session.

The Senate convened and proceeded to a period of Morning Business.

The Senate proceeded to a Legislative Session.

Reid motion to proceed to H. R. 3630 (Regarding pay-roll tax cut extension and for other purposes) with two hours of debate followed by a vote on passage of the bill with a 60 yeas vote threshold was objected to by McConnell.

**S. J. Res. 10 (Joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States introduced by Senator Hatch). Yeas and nays ordered. The resolution was not agreed to by a vote of 21-79.**

**S. J. Res. 24 (Joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States introduced by Senator Udall). Yeas and nays ordered. The resolution is not agreed to by a vote of 47-53.**

The Senate proceeded to a period of Morning Business.

The Senate proceeded to an Executive Session and confirmed the following nominations en bloc by unanimous consent:

Cal. #380 (Fifteen Naval Officers to be Rear Admirals).

Cal. #411 (David Callahan to be Rear Admiral Lower Half in the Coast Guard).

Cal. #458 (Kurt Hinrichs to be Rear Admiral Lower Half in the Coast Guard).

Cal. #459 (Six Coast Guard Officers to be Rear Admiral Lower Half in the Coast Guard).

The Senate proceeded with a Legislative Session.

H.R. 515 (Belarus Democracy and Human Rights Act of 2011). Agreed to by voice vote.

H.R. 1892 (Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012). The Feinstein substitute amendment was agreed to by unanimous consent. The bill as amended was passed by unanimous consent.

The following bill received its second reading:

H.R. 3630 (Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2011).

Further consideration of the bill was objected to. The bill was placed on the calendar.

The Senate will convene at 9:30 AM on Thursday, December 15, 2011 and will be in a period of Morning Business for one hour. At 10:30 AM, the Senate will proceed to an Executive Session to consider Cal. #337 (Morgan Christen, of Alaska, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit). There will be 30 minutes of debate on the nomination. At 11:00 AM the Senate will resume a Legislative Session. At a time to be determined, the Senate will resume Executive Session to consider the Christen nomination; there will be two minutes of debate followed by a vote on confirmation. Senator Reid announced that he expects the Senate to consider the DOD Authorization Conference Report and a version of the Payroll tax bill during tomorrow's session.

The Senate adjourned at 8:10 PM.

## SENATE FLOOR PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2011**

The Senate will convene at 10:00 AM and will proceed with a period of Morning Business for two hours. The Senate will then proceed to the consideration of S.J.Res.10 (Joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States introduced by Senator Hatch) and S.J.Res.24 (Joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States introduced by Senator Udall), en bloc. There will be eight hours of debate during Tuesday's session. Votes on both resolutions will occur on Wednesday, December 14, 2011 after 10 minutes of debate at a time to be determined. The Senate will recess during Tuesday's session from 12:30 – 2:15 for Party Caucuses.

The Senate convened and proceeded to a period of Morning Business.

The Senate proceeded to a Legislative Session.

H. R. 1633 (Temporary prohibition against revising any national ambient air quality standard applicable to coarse particulate matter). The second reading of the bill was agreed to. Further consideration of the bill was objected to and the bill was placed on the Senate Calendar.

The following amendments were considered en bloc:

**S. J. Res. 10 (Joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States introduced by Senator Hatch).**

**S. J. Res. 24 (Joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States introduced by Senator Udall).**

The Senate recessed from 12:28-2:15 PM for weekly party caucus luncheons.

The Senate convened at 2:15 PM and resumed a Legislative Session.

The following amendments were considered en bloc:

**S. J. Res. 10 (Joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States introduced by Senator Hatch).**

**S. J. Res. 24 (Joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States introduced by Senator Udall).**

H.R. 2845 (Pipeline Safety, Regulatory Certainty, and Job Creation Act of 2011). Agreed to by Unanimous Consent.

H.R. 2867 (Reauthorizes the International Religious Freedom Act). Durbin amendment agreed to by Unanimous Consent. The bill, as amended, is read for a third time and agreed to by Voice Vote.

**The Senate will convene at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, December 14, 2011 and will be in a period of Morning Business for one hour. The Senate will then proceed to a Legislative Session and resume consideration of the following resolutions en bloc:**

**S. J. Res. 10 (Joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States introduced by Senator Hatch).**

**S. J. Res. 24 (Joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States introduced by Senator Udall).**

**At approximately 10:45 AM, the Senate will vote on the above resolutions. Senator Reid announced that he also hopes to consider the DOD Authorization Conference Report and the House-passed Payroll tax bill tomorrow.**

**The Senate adjourned at 7:34 PM.**

## SENATE FLOOR PROCEEDINGS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2011

The Senate will convene at 2:00 PM and will be in a period of Morning Business until 4:30 PM. The Senate will then proceed to an Executive Session to consider the following nominations: Cal. #360 (Norman Eisen, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Czech Republic). Cal. #501 (Mari Carmen Aponte, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of El Salvador). There will be 60 minutes of debate on the nominations. At 5:30 PM, the Senate will have a cloture vote on the Eisen nomination. If cloture is invoked, the Senate will immediately proceed to vote on confirmation of the Eisen nomination. Upon disposition of the Eisen nomination, the Senate will proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Aponte nomination.

The Senate convened and proceeded to a period of Morning Business.

The Senate proceeded with an Executive Session.

**Cal. #360 (Norman Eisen, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Czech Republic).** Motion to Invoke Cloture on the Nomination. Yeas and nays ordered. The Motion to Invoke Cloture on the nomination was agreed to by a vote of 70-16. The nomination was confirmed by voice vote.

**Cal. #501 (Mari Carmen Aponte, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of El Salvador).** Motion to Invoke Cloture on the nomination. Yeas and nays ordered. The Motion to Invoke Cloture on the nomination was not agreed to by a vote of 39-37.

The Senate proceeded with a Legislative Session.

**H. R. 1801 (Amend US Code to provide for expedited security screening for members of the Armed Forces).** The bill was agreed to by voice vote as amended.

The Senate proceeded with a period of Morning Business until 7:30 PM.

H. R. 1633 (Establish a temporary prohibition against revising any national ambient air quality standard applicable to coarse particulate matter). The first reading of the bill was agreed to. The second reading of the bill was objected to.

The Senate will convene at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, December 13, 2011 and will proceed with a period of Morning Business for two hours. The Senate will then proceed to the consideration of S.J.Res.10 (Joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States introduced by Senator Hatch) and S.J.Res.24 (Joint resolution proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States introduced by Senator Udall), en bloc. There will be eight hours of debate during Tuesday's session. Votes on both

resolutions will occur on Wednesday, December 14, 2011 after 10 minutes of debate at a time to be determined. The Senate will recess during Tuesday's session from 12:30 – 2:15 for Party Caucuses.

The Senate adjourned at 7:25 PM.

## SENATE FLOOR PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2011

The Senate will convene at 9:30 AM on Thursday, December 8, 2011 and will proceed to Executive Session to consider Cal. #413 (Richard Cordray, of Ohio, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection for a term of five years). At 10:30 AM, the Senate will vote on the Motion to Invoke Cloture to Cal. #413 (Richard Cordray, of Ohio, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection for a term of five years). If cloture is not invoked, the Senate will then proceed to a Legislative Session to consider the Motion to Proceed to S. 1944 (A bill to create jobs by providing payroll tax relief for middle class families and businesses). Unless an agreement is reached, the Cloture vote on the Motion to Proceed to S. 1944 will be on Friday morning.

The Senate convened and proceeded to an Executive Session.

**Cal. #413 (Richard Cordray to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection for a term of five years). Motion to Invoke Cloture.** Yeas and nays ordered. The cloture motion was not agreed to by a vote of **53-45-1 present**.

The Senate proceeded to a Legislative Session.

**Motion to Proceed to S. 1944 (A bill to create jobs by providing payroll tax relief for middle class families and businesses).** Yeas and nays ordered. Under a previous Unanimous Consent order, the vote is subject to a 60-affirmative vote for passage. The Motion to Proceed was not agreed to by a vote of **50-48**.

**Motion to Proceed to S. 1931 (Temporary Tax Holiday and Government Reduction Act).** Yeas and nays ordered. Under a previous Unanimous Consent order, the vote is subject to a 60-affirmative vote for passage. The Motion to Proceed was not agreed to by a vote of **22-76**.

The Senate proceeded to a period of Morning Business.

The Senate proceeded to an Executive Session:

Reid filed cloture on the following nominations:

Cal. #360 (Norman Eisen, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Czech Republic).

Cal. #501 (Mari Carmen Aponte, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of El Salvador).

**The Senate proceeded with a Legislative Session.**

**House Message to S.J. Res (A joint resolution to grant the consent of Congress to an amendment to the compact between the States of Missouri and Illinois providing that bonds issued by the Bi-State Development Agency may mature in not to exceed 40 years.). Reid unanimous consent request that the Senate concur in the House amendment, and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table. The Motion to Concur was agreed to by unanimous consent.**

**H.R. 2061 (An act to authorize the presentation of a United States flag on behalf of federal civilian employees who die of injuries in connection with their employment). Agreed to by unanimous consent.**

**S. 1974 (A bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to clarify the definition of aircraft and the offenses penalized under the aviation smuggling provisions under that act). Agreed to by unanimous consent.**

**The Senate will convene at 2:00 PM on Monday, December 12, 2011 and will be in a period of Morning Business until 4:30 PM. The Senate will then proceed to an Executive Session to consider the following nominations:**

**Cal. #360 (Norman Eisen, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Czech Republic).**

**Cal. #501 (Mari Carmen Aponte, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of El Salvador).**

**There will be 60 minutes of debate on the nominations. At 5:30 PM, the Senate will have a cloture vote on the Eisen nomination. If cloture is invoked, the Senate will immediately proceed to vote on confirmation of the Eisen nomination. Upon disposition of the Eisen nomination, the Senate will proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Aponte nomination**

**The Senate adjourned at 6:25 PM.**

## **SENATE FLOOR PROCEEDINGS**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2011**

The Senate will convene at 11:30 AM and will be in a period of Morning Business. Senator Bennet announced that unless an agreement is reached, the Senate will vote on the Cordray nomination on Thursday morning.

The Senate convened and proceeded with a period of Morning Business.

Motion to Proceed to S. 1944 (A bill to create jobs by providing payroll tax relief for middle class families and businesses). Reid Motion to Invoke Cloture on the Motion to Proceed.

The Senate resumed a period of Morning Business.

S. 1958 (National Flood Insurance Program Extension). Agreed to by Voice Vote.

S. Res. 345 (Sense of the Senate of the closure of Umatilla Army Depot). Agreed to by Unanimous Consent.

The Senate will convene at 9:30 AM on Thursday, December 8, 2011 and will proceed to Executive Session to consider Cal. #413 (Richard Cordray, of Ohio, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection for a term of five years). At 10:30 AM, the Senate will vote on the Motion to Invoke Cloture to Cal. #413 (Richard Cordray, of Ohio, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection for a term of five years). If cloture is not invoked, the Senate will then proceed to a Legislative Session to consider the Motion to Proceed to S. 1944 (A bill to create jobs by providing payroll tax relief for middle class families and businesses). Unless an agreement is reached, the Cloture vote on the Motion to Proceed to S. 1944 will be on Friday morning.

The Senate adjourned at 6:03 PM.

## SENATE FLOOR PROCEEDINGS

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2011**

The Senate will convene at 10:00 AM and will be in a period of Morning Business for one hour. At 11:00 AM, the Senate will proceed to an Executive Session to consider Cal. #43 (Caitlin Halligan to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit). At 12 Noon the Senate will hold a Cloture vote on the Halligan nomination. The Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 PM for the weekly party caucus luncheons.

The Senate convened and proceeded to a period of Morning Business.

The following bill received its second reading:

S.1944 (A bill to create jobs by providing payroll tax relief for middle-class families and businesses).

Further consideration of the bill was objected to. The bill will be placed on the calendar under Rule XIV.

The Senate proceeded to an Executive Session.

Reid filed cloture on Cal. #413 (Richard Cordray, of Ohio, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection for a term of five years).

**Motion to Invoke Cloture on Cal. #43 (Caitlin Joan Halligan to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit). Yeas and nays ordered. The Cloture Motion was not agreed to by a vote of 54-45.**

The Senate resumed a Legislative Session.

The Senate recessed from 12:32-2:15 PM for weekly party caucus luncheons.

The Senate reconvened at 2:15 PM and proceeded to a period of Morning Business.

Sen. Bennet asked Unanimous Consent that H.R. 1540 (Department of Defense Authorization Act) be printed as passed by the Senate on December 1, 2011.

The Senate will convene at 11:30 AM on Wednesday, December 7, 2011 and will be in a period of Morning Business. Senator Bennet announced that unless an agreement is reached, the Senate will vote on the Cordray nomination on Thursday morning.

**The Senate adjourned at 6:03 PM.**

## SENATE FLOOR PROCEEDINGS

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2011

The Senate will convene at 2:00 PM and will be in a period of Morning Business until 4:30 PM. The Senate will then proceed to Executive Session to consider the following nominations:  
Cal. #363 (Edgardo Ramos to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York).  
Cal. #364 (Andrew Carter Jr. to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York).  
Cal. #365 (James Gilstrap to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas).  
Cal. #406 (Dana Christensen to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Montana).  
There will be one hour of debate on the nominations followed by a vote of one of the nominees. The Senate expects that three of the nominees will be agreed to by Unanimous Consent.

The Senate convened and proceeded to a period of Morning Business.

The Senate proceeded to an Executive Session to consider the following nominations:  
Cal. #363 (Edgardo Ramos to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York).  
Cal. #364 (Andrew Carter Jr. to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York).  
Cal. #365 (James Gilstrap to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas).  
Cal. #406 (Dana Christensen to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Montana).

Cal. #363 (Edgardo Ramos to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York). Yeas and nays ordered. The nomination was confirmed by a vote of 89-0.

Cal. #364 (Andrew Carter Jr. to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York). Agreed to by voice vote.

Cal. #365 (James Gilstrap to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas). Agreed to by voice vote.

Cal. #406 (Dana Christensen to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Montana). Agreed to by voice vote.

The Senate proceeded with a Legislative Session.

S. 384 (A bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal to raise funds for breast cancer research). Agreed to by unanimous consent.

**S. Res. 343 (Commemorating the 84<sup>th</sup> birthday of the King of Thailand). Agreed to by unanimous consent.**

**The following bill received its first reading:**

**S.1944 (A bill to create jobs by providing payroll tax relief for middle-class families and businesses).**

**The second reading of the bill was objected. The bill will receive its second reading on the next Legislative Day.**

**The Senate will convene at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, December 6, 2011 and will be in a period of Morning Business for one hour. At 11:00 AM, the Senate will proceed to an Executive Session to consider Cal. #43 (Caitlin Halligan to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit). At 12 Noon the Senate will hold a Cloture vote on the Halligan nomination. The Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 PM for the weekly party caucus luncheons.**

**The Senate adjourned at 6:13 PM.**

## SENATE FLOOR PROCEEDINGS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2011

The Senate will convene at 9:30 AM and will be in a period of Morning Business for 90 minutes. At 11:00 AM, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1867 (Department of Defense Authorization Bill). The pending amendment will be the Levin amend #1293 (To authorize the transfer of certain high-speed ferries to the Navy). Roll call votes are expected throughout the day but are currently not scheduled. Sen. Durbin announced the Senate expects to complete action on the Department of Defense Authorization bill during today's session. Unless a unanimous consent agreement is reached, the cloture vote on the Motion to Proceed to S. 1917 (To create jobs by providing payroll tax relief for middle class families and businesses) will occur the morning of Friday, December 2, 2011.

The Senate convened and proceeded with a period of Morning Business.

The following bills received their second reading en bloc:

S.J. Res. 30 (A joint resolution extending the cooling-off period under section 10 of the Railway Labor Act).

S.J. Res. 31 (A joint resolution applying certain conditions to the dispute referred to in Executive Order 13586 of October 2 through October 6, 2011).

S. Res. 32 (A joint resolution to provide for the resolution of the outstanding issues in the current railway labor management dispute).

S. 1930 (A bill to prohibit earmarks).

S. 1931 (A bill to provide certain payroll tax relief to reduce the Federal budget deficit).

S. 1932 (A bill to require the Secretary of State to act on a permit for the Keystone X.L. pipeline).

Further consideration of the bills were objected to en bloc. The resolutions were placed on the Senate Calendar.

### **S. 1867 (Department of Defense Authorization Bill).**

Levin amend #1293 (To authorize the transfer of certain high-speed ferries to the Navy). Laid aside.

Inhofe amend #1093 (To require the detention at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, of high-value enemy combatants who will be detained long-term) is withdrawn.

Feinstein amend #1125 (To clarify the applicability of requirements for military custody with respect to detainees). Yeas and nays ordered. The amendment is not agreed to by a vote of 45-55.

Merkley amend #1174 (To express the sense of Congress regarding the expedited transition of responsibility for military and security operations in Afghanistan to the Government of Afghanistan).

The following amendments were considered en bloc:

Begich amend #1114 (To amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize space-available travel on military aircraft for members of the reserve components, a member or former member of a reserve component who is eligible for retired pay but for age, widows and widowers of retired members, and dependents), as modified.

McCain amend #1220 (To require Comptroller General of the United States reports on the Department of Defense implementation of justification and approval requirements for certain sole-source contracts).

Reed amend #1146 (To provide for the participation of military technicians (dual status) in the study on the termination of military technician as a distinct personnel management category), as modified.

Levin amend #1293 (To authorize the transfer of certain high-speed ferries to the Navy), as modified.

Boxer amend #1206 (To implement common sense controls on the taxpayer-funded salaries of defense contractors).

Chambliss amend #1304 (To require a report on the reorganization of the Air Force Materiel Command), as modified.

Pryor amend #1151 (To authorize a death gratuity and related benefits for Reserves who die during an authorized stay at their residence during or between successive days of inactive duty training).

Nelson (FL) amend #1236 (To require a report on the effects of changing flag officer positions within the Air Force Materiel Command).

Blunt amend #1133 (To provide for employment and reemployment rights for certain individuals ordered to full-time National Guard Duty).

Murkowski amend #1287 (To provide limitations on the retirement of C-23 aircraft).

Brown (MA) amend #1090 (To provide that the basic allowance for housing in effect for a member of the National Guard is not reduced when the member transitions between active duty and full-time National Guard duty without a break in active service).

Agreed to, en bloc, by Unanimous Consent.

Collins amend #1105 (Make permanent the requirement for certifications relating to the transfer of detainees at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to foreign countries and other foreign entities). Withdrawn.

Collins amend #1158 (Clarify the permanence of the prohibition on transfers of recidivist detainees at United States Naval Station, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to foreign countries and entities). Withdrawn.

Levin Point of Order against amendments at the desk that they are in violation of Rule 22. The Point of Orders were sustained and the amendments fell.

The following amendments are withdrawn by Unanimous Consent:

Rubio amend #1290 (To strike the national security waiver authority in section 1032, relating to requirements for military custody).

Merkley amend #1256 (To require a plan for the expedited transition of responsibility for military and security operations in Afghanistan to the Government of Afghanistan).

Feinstein amend #1126 (To limit the authority of the Armed Forces to detain citizens of the United States under section 1031). Yeas and nays ordered. The amendment was not agreed to by a vote of 45-55.

Feinstein amend #1456 (Of a perfecting nature). Yeas and nays ordered. The amendment is agreed to by a vote of 99-1.

Menendez amend #1414 (To require the imposition of sanctions with respect to the financial sector of Iran, including the Central Bank of Iran). Yeas and nays ordered. The amendment was agreed to by a vote of 100-0.

Nelson (FL) amend #1209 (To repeal the requirement for reduction of survivor annuities under the Survivor Benefit Plan by veterans' dependency and indemnity compensation). The amendment is agreed to by Voice Vote.

Leahy amend #1080 (To clarify the applicability of requirements for military custody with respect to detainees). The amendment is withdrawn.

Sessions amend #1274 (To clarify the disposition under the law of war of persons detained by the Armed Forces of the United States pursuant to the Authorization for Use of Military Force). Yeas and nays ordered. The amendment was not agreed to by a vote of 41-59.

Leahy amend #1087 (To improve the provisions relating to the treatment of certain sensitive national security information under the Freedom of Information Act), as modified. The amendment is agreed to by Unanimous Consent.

Udall (NM) amend #1202 (To clarify the application of the provisions of the Buy American Act to the procurement of photovoltaic devices by the Department of Defense), as modified. Agreed to by Unanimous Consent.

**S. 1867 (Department of Defense Authorization Bill), as amended.** The bill was read for a third time. **Final passage.** The bill, as amended, is passed by a vote of 93-7.

H.R. 1540 (National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012). Unanimous Consent request that all after the enacting clause be stricken and the text of S. 1867 as amended be inserted, that the bill be read a third time and passed is agreed to. The Senate insists on its amendments and requests a Conference with the House of the disagreeing votes of the two Houses and the Senate appoint the members of the Senate Armed Services Committee as the conferees.

Motion to Proceed to S. 1917 (Middle Class Tax Cut Act of 2011). The Cloture Motion has been vitiated by Unanimous Consent. Yeas and nays ordered. Under a Unanimous Consent agreement, the Motion to Proceed is subject to a 60-affirmative vote threshold. The Motion to Proceed is not agreed to by a vote of 51-49.

Motion to Proceed to S. 1931 (A bill to provide civilian payroll tax relief, to reduce the Federal budget deficit, and for other purposes). Yeas and nays ordered. Under a Unanimous Consent agreement, the Motion to Proceed is subject to a 60-affirmative vote threshold. The Motion to Proceed was not agreed to by a vote of 20-78.

The Senate proceeded to an Executive Session.

Reid Motion to Invoke Cloture on Cal. #43 (Caitlin Halligan to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit). The Senate will vote on the Cloture Motion on Tuesday, December 6th at 11 AM.

The Senate resumed a Legislative Session.

H.R. 2192 (National Guard and Reservist Debt Relief Extension Act of 2011). Agreed to by Unanimous Consent.

The Senate will convene at 2:00 PM on Monday, December 5, 2011 and will be in a period of Morning Business until 4:30 PM. The Senate will then proceed to Executive Session to consider the following nominations:

Cal. #363 (Edgardo Ramos to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York).

Cal. #364 (Andrew Carter Jr. to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York).

Cal. #365 (James Gilstrap to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas).

Cal. #406 (Dana Christensen to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Montana).

There will be one hour of debate on the nominations followed by a vote of one of the nominees.

The Senate expects that three of the nominees will be agreed to by Unanimous Consent.

The Senate adjourned at 9:52 PM.