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Senate

The Senate met at 9:15 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O Light of light, we thank You for a new day with all its shades, shadows, and sunshine. Strengthen us for the opportunities and challenges ahead. Lord, keep us from murmuring and complaining, as we face life's inevitable setbacks. Thank You for blessing us beyond what we deserve for life, for love, for liberty. Forgive us when we seek to be served instead of striving to serve. Empower our leaders today, that the end of this day will find them unashamed. Establish Your reign among us, and let truth and unity prevail. We pray this in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we will resume consideration of the Labor-HHS appropriations bill. Beginning at 9:30 this morning, there will be two consecutive votes in relation to amendments to this appropriations bill. The first vote will be in relation to Senator CLINTON's amendment on a bioterrorism workforce, and the second will be in relation to the Harkin

amendment on school renovation. Following those votes, the chairman and ranking member are prepared to remain and debate further amendments.

As we have indicated previously, we need and plan on finishing this bill as soon as possible. There are additional appropriations bills that are now ready for full Senate action, and once this bill is completed we will be proceeding to those bills. We need to continue to work in an orderly way, which has been demonstrated over the course of this week. Today I know will be a very productive day, as will Monday.

It is my hope we can finish Labor-HHS, this appropriations bill, no later than Tuesday, and with the cooperation of Members working together, this is indeed still possible. This will require votes this morning. There will be just these two votes this morning. Again, debate will continue throughout the course of the day. We will be voting late Monday afternoon. Specific times will be set later today. There may be multiple votes on Monday. I will have more to say on Monday's schedule later today, as we see what amendments are offered and which will be appropriate to vote on on Monday.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The assistant Democratic leader.

VOTING SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we worked the day before yesterday and yesterday and did come up with a finite list of amendments on our side and on the majority's side. The respective staffs worked closely together, and we now have a list. We were hopeful last night we could have had that put into a unanimous consent request. We have been told that the issue holding that up has been the request that we had to have an overtime vote on Tuesday

when all four Presidential candidates will be here.

I will say, through the Chair to the majority leader, from the first day I started talking, as did Senator HARKIN, to the Republican manager, the senior Senator from Pennsylvania, we acknowledged that we wanted to have a vote on Tuesday. So it is not anything that is new or unique that we have been setting that time aside tentatively.

We would hope that before we leave here this morning, we can have some kind of agreement to that effect. Otherwise, we will do our best to cooperate, but we certainly need that vote. We think it would be the right thing to do to have as many of our people here as possible when that vote occurs. As the leader knows, we have a few Republican votes on that, but with the margins as small as they are, it would be a very close vote. We should have everyone whenever that vote occurs.

We have been acting in very good faith. It was hard to get agreement on our side. That is why I was hoping we could have it done last night. I do hope we can have that done today.

Senator DOMENICI and I have worked the Energy and water bill on many occasions. We feel we have a good bill. It is one I am glad the majority leader is going to move to quickly because we are going to have a very difficult conference with the House. There are some big issues we normally don't have to work with in our conference that are in dispute. I think we can finish that bill in a fairly short period of time. It is a bill that is very important to almost every Member.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. FRIST. In response to the assistant Democratic leader, scheduling is always a challenge. I appreciate the straightforward way he presents it because it is very clear that on the other side of the aisle there are a number of people running for the nomination for

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



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