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## Senate

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

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

God of love and laughter, what can we give You for all of Your benefits? You send the sunshine and rain and bring the bountiful harvest. You dispatch angels to protect us from dangers that we do not even see. You save us from ourselves and fill the void of our spirits with Your abiding presence. You keep us from wariness and despair. Great and marvelous are Your works; just and true are Your ways.

Thank You for the peace You give each of us, even in the midst of life's storms. Supply all the needs of our Senators out of the abundance of Your celestial riches. Transform our gratitude into service to those who know daily the pain of privation and hopelessness. Help us to express our faith in deeds of love. We pray in Your great name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LINCOLN CHAFEE 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. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, June 4, 2004.

To the Senate:

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

TED STEVENS,  
President pro tempore.

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

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will resume consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill. It is the leader's hope that we would be able to temporarily set aside the pending amendment so that other Senators can offer and debate their amendments. Senators are encouraged to come to the floor to speak on the merits of the bill. There will be no rollcall votes today.

The next rollcall vote will be in relation to the Kennedy bunker-buster amendment and that vote will occur Tuesday of next week prior to the policy luncheons.

I remind all Senators that under an agreement reached yesterday, all first-degree amendments to the Defense bill must be filed at the desk no later than 5 p.m. on Monday. It is the leader's intention to complete action on this bill next week. Senators should expect a busy week next week as we move toward completion of the Defense authorization bill.

I see Senator DASCHLE is in the Chamber and yield any time that he would consume.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

### COMPLETING DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I thank the distinguished Senator from Alabama and share his and the leader's view that given the agreements we have reached with regard to consideration of amendments on the DOD authorization bill, that we can work in a way that will accommodate that goal of completing our work on the bill before the end of next week.

### FAREWELL TO SENATE PAGES

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I would like to again say farewell this morning to a wonderful group of young men and women who have served as Senate pages over the last 5 months and thank them for their contributions to the day-to-day operations of the Senate. This particular group of pages has served with distinction, and they have done a marvelous job of balancing their responsibilities to their studies and to this body. Today is their final day as Senate pages.

I want to say thank you to Andrew Blais of Rhode Island; Katherine Buck of New Hampshire; Sam Cannon of Utah; Erin Chase of South Dakota; Eric Coykendall of Arizona; Julie Cyr of Vermont; Joe Galli of Maine; Watson Hemrick of Tennessee; Jennifer Hirsch of Arkansas; Garrett Jackson of Mississippi; Kara Johnson of Illinois; Ben Kappelman of Montana; Andrew Knox of Vermont; Adam Lathan of Alabama; Betsy Lefholz of South Dakota; Brittny Moraski of Michigan; Alex Ogden of North Carolina; Jaclyn Pfaehler of Montana; Aaron Porter of Tennessee; Ingrid Price of Utah; Laura Pritchard of Virginia; Laura Refsland

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



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of Wisconsin; Ryan Smith of Kentucky; Kyra Waitley of Idaho; Nathanael Whipple of California; and Elizabeth Wright of Montana.

I suspect few people understand how hard Senate pages work. On a typical day, pages are in school by 6:15 a.m. After several hours of classes each morning, pages then report to the Capitol to prepare the Senate Chamber for the day's session.

Throughout the day, and sometimes into the night, pages are called upon to perform a wide array of tasks, from obtaining copies of documents and reports for Senators to use during debate, to running errands between the Capitol and the Senate office buildings, to lending a hand at our weekly conference luncheons. Once we finish our business here for the day, no matter what time, the pages return to the dorm and prepare for the next day's classes and Senate session and, we hope, get some much-needed sleep.

Despite this rigorous schedule, these young people continually discharge their tasks efficiently and cheerfully. In fact, as one page said, "We like working hard. When things get hectic, that's when we like it best."

This page class had the good fortune to witness some historic moments. They saw President Bush present the Congressional Gold Medal to Dorothy Height, one of the giants of the modern civil rights movement in America. They were present for important debates in this chamber over such critical issues as the budget and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. They have seen, and had their photos taken with, celebrities, including Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Two days ago, they saw another famous visitor, the actor Mike Myers, better known to some as "Austin Powers, International Man of Mystery."

I hope the close-up view that these exceptional young people have had of the Senate at work these last few months has made this institution a little bit less of a mystery. Our Government "of the people, by the people, and for the people" requires the active involvement of informed citizens to work.

I understand that many, if not most, of this semester's pages have decided to volunteer on political campaigns, both Republican and Democratic, when they return home. I am told the campaigns run the gamut from local school board candidates to Senate candidates.

I am sure I speak for all Senators when I say, we applaud your continued involvement in the democratic process. And we wish you well in all that you choose to do in your future. We hope we will see some of you back here some day, as staffers, or as Senators. We are grateful for the excellent work you have already given the Senate these past 5 months.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. I thank the distinguished Democratic leader for his ex-

cellent remarks. They are timely, and I would join in them. The pages have added so much to the Senate's ability to function. We appreciate them. I know Adam Lathan from Alabama has been a big help to me, and each Senator has had pages who have helped tremendously. I think it appropriate we express our appreciation at this time for their superb service.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2400, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2400) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Services, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Kennedy amendment No. 3263, to prohibit the use of funds for the support of new nuclear weapons development under the Stockpile Services Advanced Concepts Initiative or for the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator (RNEP).

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

#### EDUCATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is now quarter to 7 in Nevada. Children are walking on their way to school. Here in the East, children are already at school. In Nevada we have a wide range of school districts. We have 17 school districts, one for each county. The school district in Las Vegas, the Clark County School District, is approaching 300,000 students. It is one of the largest school districts in America. Esmeralda County, Goldfield, has 84 students. Because of the feeling I have and the complaints I received about the Leave No Child Behind Act, I thought it appropriate that I meet with those 17 school superintendents. I did that last week when I was home during the Memorial Day break. Jim Hager, the superintendent from Washoe County—that is Reno, which is the second largest school district—is the president of the Superintendents Association. At my request he convened this meeting.

I have had many meetings over the years, as we all have, dealing with a broad range of subjects, but I have never had a meeting that was more meaningful, more informative, more educational to me than the meeting I

had with the school superintendents. My only regret is I didn't spend more time with them. We spent an hour and 15 minutes. That is what we had scheduled. It was a tremendously good meeting.

I had no agenda with the superintendents other than to listen to them. I didn't bring them into the room and proceed to give a Senate filibuster to them. I wanted to make sure that every one of the 17, from the smallest school district to the largest, had an opportunity to speak—and that is what we did.

Every one of the 17 has tried so hard to comply with the intent and the actual substance of the Leave No Child Behind Act. They simply said, though, that in an effort to comply with this new law, they have robbed Peter to pay Paul with their budgets. They have compromised on all kinds of very important programs within the school districts. They have tampered with and eliminated art programs, programs for the academically talented, athletic programs, music programs, and history classes in an effort to meet the requirements of Leave No Child Behind.

There is no question, when I went to high school, that the courses I took—English, math, and sciences—were important. I was taught those subjects, of course. But also it was important that I have a full education, that I have the opportunity to participate in athletics, that teachers be given the opportunity to teach other subjects than math, science, and English. A superintendent said they had even had to shorten the time allotted for recess. Some say, Good, the kids are out too much. You know, recess time is time just like the time people take for coffee breaks. People take a break to get away from the drudgery, or even if somebody loves their job, a break is important. Children need a break just like adults. They have even shortened the time allotted for recesses.

Instead of just ignoring the law, they have tried to comply with it, all 17 superintendents. I commend them for their unified efforts in that regard. But there is only so much they can do with a law that is basically flawed, a law that is flawed because there are no resources to fulfill the requirements of that law. One after the other, these educators gave examples of how the No Child Left Behind Act is leaving these children behind. It is simply not reaching its goal.

One superintendent said: What if you, in Washington, passed a law that every child, to graduate from high school, had to dunk a basketball?

It didn't matter how hard I tried. I could never dunk a basketball. I couldn't dunk the basketball when I graduated high school at age 17.

If they passed a law saying every child who graduated from high school had to high jump 6 feet, they could not do it; if every child had to run a mile in 6 minutes, they could not do it. Physically and emotionally, it is impossible for children to do those things.