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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, who is the strength of our lives. Let us live to tell of Your wondrous works. How magnificent are Your acts, O Lord. How deep are all Your thoughts. You will not give Your glory to another, for You are omnipotent. Help us to endure the discipline of Your loving correction. Empower us to decrease, so that Your spirit may increase in our lives.

Bless our lawmakers today. Give them an eternal perspective on the myriad issues they face. Renew their minds with truth and sharpen their skills in each important area of living. Bless the members of their staffs who labor into the evenings for freedom's cause.

Bring healing to the sick and comfort to those who mourn. Inspire us all to sow bountifully that we may reap bountifully. Blessed be Your Name forever and ever, for wisdom and power belong to You. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, 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 17, 2004.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. SUNUNU 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. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we will resume consideration of the Defense authorization bill. Under the order, Senator BOND will offer an amendment relating to energy employees, and I understand there may be a modification to the amendment. Therefore, the amendment may be accepted without a recorded vote.

The chairman and ranking member also discussed the possibility last night of considering several missile defense amendments this morning, and I defer to the chairman as to what debate times will be necessary on these amendments after discussion with the ranking member. I do anticipate roll-call votes will be required in relation to these amendments.

We will have a very busy session today as we continue to make progress on the Defense authorization bill. I am pleased with the progress that is being made, though last night I did file closure on the bill as a necessary tool, in my mind, to facilitate and help bring the bill to closure.

We will continue to discuss the issue of how best to bring the bill to closure.

I am in constant discussion with the Democratic leadership and with the ranking member and the chairman as to how we can best finish this important bill. We will be updating the Senate over the course of the day as to our progress.

Once again, I remind our colleagues that we will continue to schedule votes on judges throughout each day's session. We will set votes on those judicial nominations as we set votes on the defense amendments over the course of the day. I do want to thank Chairman WARNER and Senator LEVIN for their tremendous work on the bill thus far, and I look forward to another very full and very complete day.

I will defer for a minute as far as the schedule goes.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

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

### VOTING

Mr. REID. If I could ask, through the Chair, to the distinguished majority leader, it is obvious we have a number of amendments to dispose of. As we talked publicly last night with the two managers, we have four missile defense amendments over here. There will be at least two second degrees, maybe more, that will be offered on those amendments. As we have said, as soon as we see them, I am sure we can set out a reasonable period of time to debate them and vote on them, and we should get rid of these with—I do not mean that in a negative sense but move on past these in a fairly short period of time.

We also have indicated that Senator BIDEN wishes to offer the amendment that has been no secret around here to take some of the higher bracket tax cuts and use those moneys for what is going on in Iraq.

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



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