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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 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.

Lord, God, we lift our hearts to You. You are the one who is, and was, and always will be. You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign. Teach us to trust in Your love and in Your promises. Make Your grace abound toward us so that we will have sufficiency in all things.

Give knowledge and understanding to our Senators as they work for Your glory. Free them from entanglements that dishonor You. Fill them with gratitude for this opportunity to invest their lives in something that will outlive them. Give them each day an awareness of Your presence, and may they work for Your honor.

Teach us all to trust You, even when the road is difficult to find in life's darkness.

We pray this in Your living 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 immediately resume consideration of the Defense authorization bill. Although I announced no rollcall

votes will occur today, we expect a number of Senators to come to the floor of the Senate to offer their amendments throughout the day. It is our expectation that some of those amendments can be fully debated today and Monday, and then we will schedule votes for Monday night.

Last night I stated that we will have our next series of rollcall votes on Monday and those votes to start around 5:30 p.m. We will have a busy day and evening on Monday and throughout Tuesday as we complete the Defense authorization bill. I continue to remind my colleagues we will be scheduling votes on the available judicial nominations each day next week.

Next week is the final week prior to the scheduled Fourth of July recess. It is expected it will be a very busy week. I advise my colleagues in advance to keep their schedules flexible in anticipation of busy floor sessions with votes each day throughout the week.

Also, as a reminder, we will be taking the official photograph of the Senate this Tuesday at 2:15. Members should be seated at their desks promptly at 2:15 to avoid missing this photograph.

I do want to thank all for their attention, and I particularly thank Senators WARNER and LEVIN for being here today managing the bill and for their continuing efforts at finishing this bill. They have been here each evening and early each morning. I appreciate their continued hard work on the bill.

### MEETING IRAQI PRESIDENT SHEIK GHAZI AL-YAWR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I want to make a brief statement in leader time on a visit I had last week with the new President of the Iraqi interim government, Sheik Ghazi al-Yawr. The distinguished minority leader, the distinguished President pro tempore, and Senators LEAHY, WARNER, LUGAR, REID, and LEVIN all participated in what was a fascinating luncheon discussion.

Our meeting was a timely one. I traveled about 12 days ago to Baghdad and had the opportunity to spend time with other leaders in Baghdad. To be able to host the President here and have a discussion about his perspective was very useful, very productive.

Two weeks ago, I was in Baghdad with Senators ENSIGN and BENNETT, and while we were there we had the opportunity to meet with the new Iraqi Prime Minister, Dr. Ayad al-Alawi. I mentioned our discussions with him on the Senate floor yesterday morning.

Our meeting this week also came on the heels of the unanimous passage on Tuesday a week ago of the U.N. Security Council resolution that governs the transfer of sovereignty to the Iraqi people as we move from occupiers to a mission presence in Iraq.

President al-Yawr at our meeting last week laid out his vision of a free Iraq. He reminded us that the Iraqi people want a free society that is governed by a rule of law. A rule of law has become a real goal of his as he looks over the next 6 months in terms of the operation of this interim government. The Iraqi people want to do what you would expect, and that is to be able to raise their children in peace and to be able to live their lives in peace. That element of security coupled with preparing for these elections 6 months from now are his dual objectives.

The President did point out and underscored the importance of the date that will occur now in 2 weeks, and that is June 30, which is the formal transfer of sovereignty. He stressed the importance of maintaining a coalition presence posthandover in order to preserve security while the new Iraqi police forces are being built and rebuilt, and the Iraqi Armed Forces are being equipped, appropriately armed, and trained. He rejected those who commit acts of terror against the Iraqi people. No Iraqi wants to return to the days when a single individual ruled that country with fear.

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



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