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Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LINCOLN D. CHAFEE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O Lord, our rock, hear our praise today, for Your faithfulness endures to all generations. You hear our prayers. Surround us with Your mercy. You are our strength and our shield. Listen to the melody of our gratitude, for You are the center of our joy. Thank You for illuminating our paths with Your precepts, dispelling the darkness of doubt and fear.

Today, guide our lawmakers. Be their shepherd in these dangerous times. Help them to not trust solely in human wisdom but to follow Your revelation. Lead them beside still waters and reward their faithfulness. May they find their refuge in You.

Lord, You are our song. Thank You for the gift of this day. Empower us to be doers of Your will and not simply hearers. Deliver us from evil as we keep our eyes on You.

We pray with grateful hearts. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LINCOLN D. 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, September 14, 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 D. 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we have a period of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with the first 30 minutes under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee and the final 30 minutes under the control of the majority leader or his designee.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the Homeland Security appropriations bill. As I understand, there are approximately five pending amendments the chairman will review to determine when we will be disposing of them. Therefore, Senators should expect numerous rollcall votes over the course of the day as we move toward completion of that bill.

We do have our recess between 12:30 and 2:15 for the weekly party luncheons.

While I mentioned we will have numerous rollcall votes, and I see the assistant Democratic leader, one thing we must do over the course of today and tomorrow is limit the amount of time for Senators to vote in the specified time. We have Senators who straggle in. Everyone has an excuse. We have been too liberal in allowing peo-

ple to come in late. In order to finish the bill, especially as we want to pay appropriate respect to the Jewish holiday tomorrow, I plead with our colleagues that they come as soon as they are notified there will be a vote. We give everyone a heads-up when there will be a vote. Come and vote and leave and efficiently use that time.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. FRIST. I am happy to yield for a question.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am so gratified to hear the leader speaking on this topic.

Yesterday, we had a vote that took 45 minutes. I suggested to the floor staff maybe we should do away with the 15-minute limitation and wait until the last person shows up. It is unfair to this body. I don't think the leader should plead with people to come. They would come very quickly if we start cutting off the votes. It is unfair to this body to wait around here while somebody is finishing a phone call or a workout in the gym while the rest of us are waiting to get work done.

Also, if I could, through the Chair, we want to finish this Homeland Security appropriations bill. We have been working through these numerous amendments. We are at a point where I believe we could finalize this bill.

Finally, as the leader knows, we wanted to have a cutoff on this. I understand the leader decided yesterday to take a look at it to see if there is something we could do to help the situation in Florida through this bill. I said yesterday—and still say this—let's finish this bill. We want to help Florida as much as we can, but I think, by trying to tie these two things together, it is not going to work very well.

I respectfully submit to the leader, let's try to push forward and have a timeline when we can finish this bill. It is an important piece of legislation. We understand that. But it would set such a good tone if we could finish that prior to the holiday beginning tomorrow.

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



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