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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).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by the Very Reverend Matthew William Searforce of the Nativity of the Holy Virgin Mary Orthodox Church in Waterbury, CT.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Lord God of hosts, God of our salvation, bless this legislative body with wisdom. Bless our Nation, and guide us in Your path to righteousness. Fill the hearts of these Senators with Your goodness and wisdom, and may they always follow Your path in life, and do good work for our country.

Let the words spoken by Moses to the Israelite people be applied to us: "Be bold, stand fast, and see the salvation which is from God. The Lord will fight for you." O God, You are our hope, our strength, and our protection.

Let us always keep Your prayer in our hearts. "O Lord and Master of our lives! Take away from us the spirit of laziness, despair, lust of power and idle talk;

but give rather to us the spirit of moderation, humility, patience, and love;

Yea O Lord and King, grant that we may see our own transgressions, and judge not our brothers, for blessed are You unto the ages of ages." 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 return to the consideration of the intelligence reform legislation. Yesterday, in addition to disposing of a number of amendments, we were able to reach an agreement that all first-degree amendments must be filed at the desk by 4 p.m. today. I thank all Senators for allowing us to take this important step toward completion of this bill.

I also continue to encourage all Senators who still desire to offer amendments to contact the bill managers this morning in order to set up a queue for their consideration. I also hope Members will be reasonable with their time requests on their respective amendments. Unfortunately, I anticipate that a large number of amendments will be filed, although we are not encouraging Members to do so.

As the Democratic leader and I mentioned yesterday, and indicated on the floor, we will be closely monitoring the progress of the bill over the next several days because we will be departing October 8. We have a large number of issues to discuss and to address, as we always do at the end of a session. Thus, we must bring this bill to closure and have a final vote on this bill in the next couple of days.

I know there are a lot of colleagues who want to come to the floor and discuss and talk on the bill and discuss their amendments, and we ask them to do so today and tomorrow. Both today and tomorrow must be very full and productive days.

As we discussed on the floor yesterday, if it looks as though we are not making adequate progress—again, we come to the floor again and again to make sure people understand we need

to move this bill expeditiously—if it looks as though we are not bringing it to appropriate closure, we will consider filing cloture at the appropriate time. Again, that will allow us to continue to work on the bill and offer and debate germane amendments, but it would be just an effort to give further focus on the bill. This is clearly not a threat at all. It is just a plea in many ways for people to come to the floor now, this morning, today, to work with the managers so their amendments can be considered.

This is an extremely important bill. It is a bill that we absolutely will finish as well as the internal reorganization and oversight of this body before we leave on October 8. We do want the Senate to work its will on this bill. I know there are caucus meetings and a lot of conferences going on off the floor on the bill and bringing people up to speed with all the ramifications of the bill. We want to continue to encourage that, but the process on the floor we need to continue to move in an efficient way.

With respect to votes on Friday and Monday, the Democratic leader and I have not made announcements as to whether we will be voting. We certainly will be voting on Monday. But as to Friday, we will make announcements later today. But we need to make progress.

What we would like to do is have a number of amendments tomorrow, we hope as many as 10 amendments considered over the course of the day tomorrow—the managers will work with that as a focus—but as many amendments today and tomorrow as possible. We will have more to say on this later today. After the filing deadline is reached, we will look at the amendments we have before us, and then we will talk further about scheduling.

THANKING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, very briefly, I want to take a moment to thank

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



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