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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHUCK HAGEL, a Senator from the State of Nebraska.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, our God, we honor Your name. Every day we praise You for You deserve our admiration. We will tell this generation of Your mighty works so that Your name will be known by those not yet born. We celebrate Your matchless mercy and Your power to save.

Thank You for keeping Your word, for picking us up when we have fallen. From Your hands, we find satisfaction and fulfillment for every need.

Today guide the Members of this body with Your love. Answer them when they ask for Your help. Be for each of them a shade by day and a defense by night. May they exercise sound judgment as they listen closely to Your wisdom. Keep them in the path that leads to love.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHUCK HAGEL 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 assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,

PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 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 CHUCK HAGEL, a Senator from the State of Nebraska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning after a 1-hour period of morning business, we will resume consideration of the intelligence reform bill. In addition to a large number of pending amendments, we anticipate that more amendments will be offered today. As a reminder, the consent reached on Friday did set up a series of stacked votes beginning at 4:15 today. There are currently six votes in order. However, I anticipate other votes will be added to that series as debate continues. In addition, we will have votes into the evening in order to make progress on the bill.

I remind my colleagues that a cloture motion was filed on the bill on Friday and that cloture vote will occur tomorrow morning. It is my hope and expectation cloture will be invoked and that we will be able to finish the bill either tomorrow afternoon, tomorrow evening, or Wednesday.

I say this because, as we all know, this is our last week in session. We will adjourn if we complete both of our intelligence reform efforts on this Friday, October 8. Our goal is to adjourn on Friday, October 8. Before that time,

we do need to complete action on both arms of intelligence reform, including that relating to the Senate role on intelligence matters. We have a lot of work before us this week. We all need to prepare for busy sessions.

There are a lot of other events that are scheduled over the course of the week. Our focus must be on the business that is before us. Thus, I know everybody will be shifting things around. We need to put a major priority on what goes on here on the floor as well as on several conference reports.

In addition to what people will be seeing on the floor, we have the FSC/ETI manufacturing jobs bill that is currently in conference. There will be a lot of activity this afternoon, tonight, and tomorrow in that conference. I am hopeful we will be able to address that conference report sometime this week.

Homeland Security appropriations is also in conference and progress is being made there. That was the first bill we did when we came back 4 weeks ago. It is important that we complete it, especially since our goal is the safety and security of the American people. That bill directs the spending aspects of homeland security.

The underlying bill we have been on now for a week and a half, and we have been studying the issue aggressively in response to the 9/11 Commission report. We have made huge progress, and all of our colleagues have worked together, on both sides of the aisle, on this very nonpartisan issue. I thank all of our colleagues for participating and working with such focus in an expeditious and a bipartisan manner. The American people thank you. I thank you. The leadership on both sides of the aisle thanks you.

We have no greater duty in this body than protecting our Nation and in strengthening our intelligence system. We are meeting that responsibility. As we have said at the outset, when the Democratic leader and I set out this path, it was because, when we leave on

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



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