

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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we will begin consideration of the conference report to accompany the intelligence reform bill. We have a number of Senators who desire to speak, and we hope to lock in a time for a vote later this afternoon. As announced last night—and again we will try to lock all of this in shortly, after discussion with the Democratic leadership—we are working toward beginning the vote sometime around 2 to 2:30 today. This will have to be adjusted depending on how many people do want to speak and how long they want to speak. We continue to have Members who are adjusting their schedules, who will be traveling today, and thus we will, in a very unusual fashion, keep the vote open until sometime around 5 or 5:15 today to accommodate individuals' schedules.

The actual time in terms of bringing the bill to the floor was dependent upon the House schedule, and as everyone knows, and our colleagues know, that bill was passed last night. We will shortly begin to address that bill here formally on the floor. Once all of our colleagues have had the opportunity to discuss the bill, we will proceed to the vote.

I expect later today, tonight, the Senate will adjourn sine die, and that will be following the disposition of the intelligence reform conference report. There will be additional wrap-up items that we will address, including some of the executive nominations before we close sine die.

INTELLIGENCE REFORM BILL

Mr. President, let me also say, with respect to the intelligence bill we will pass today, it is the most sweeping reform of our intelligence community since the beginning of the CIA. This is a huge accomplishment for the United States of America and for the U.S. Congress and, indeed, for the President of the United States, but most importantly for the American people whose safety and security are first and foremost in all of our minds.

The reform of our intelligence community is not going to end today, and

we have seen that in the debates. In many ways this is a major leap forward, but we all understand in this changing environment that intelligence community reform and the strengthening and improving of our intelligence is an ongoing process, and debates and recommendations will continue well into the future. This body will continue to respond in an expeditious manner, as has been demonstrated over the last 4, 4½ months since the release of the 9/11 Commission report.

With the step that is going to be taken today in this body, our country will be safer from those plotting against us. The bill provides for much improved coordination, much improved communication within our intelligence community.

We have heard it argued by many people that it does not go far enough, and then we hear it argued that it goes too far. Again, it is not a perfect bill. There is never a perfect bill or piece of legislation that comes to this body, but it is a very strong bill, and we clearly are not going to let the perfect be the enemy of the good.

We must adapt. Our intelligence capabilities must adapt. By passage of this legislation, we demonstrate we are adapting and will adapt. But reform is an ongoing process.

I have a few more remarks to say on the intelligence bill, but let me turn to the assistant Democratic leader for comments about the schedule over the course of today, and then I will make a few more remarks.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting Democratic leader is recognized. Mr. REID. Thank you, Mr. President.

TIME AGREEMENTS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are very close to being able to wrap up the time agreements on the most important legislation that is before us. Two efficient staff people are now typing as we speak. I think we should be able to vote around 3 o'clock or something like that. They are adding up the time now. Senator BYRD has indicated he wants 2 hours, leaving a half hour for the managers or the leader, if he wants that time before the vote. So we are almost there. Within a few minutes that should be able to be completed. I think we should get that done as quickly as we can.

DEATH OF STAN KIMMITT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I just want to say one thing before we get into debate. I think it is appropriate today to mention the death of Stan Kimmitt. Stan died last night. We have had a lot of familiarity with him here. He was in the cloakroom yesterday. Some may

not recognize him by name, some of the new people here, but he was a fixture on the Democratic side of the Senate.

He served for 11 years as Secretary of the majority under Senator Mansfield when he was the majority leader. He was also elected Secretary of the Senate from 1977 to 1981. He was well known.

He was a World War II combat veteran, and he spent 25 years in the Army. He served in combat in both Korea and the European theater. He was awarded the Silver Star and the Legion of Merit.

I am not going to dwell on this other than to say it is people like him who have such a love for this institution they have worked in, that even though they leave, they are back. He had a very good business downtown but came here all the time.

As the Chaplain in his prayers talks about the Senate family, Stan Kimmitt was truly a part of the Senate family. I express my condolences on behalf of the entire Senate to his wife and his family.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

THE INTELLIGENCE REFORM BILL

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today is a signature day in what has been a Congress of milestone achievements. Our last vote this year will be on one of the most consequential legislative initiatives of this session, intelligence reform. The road to this moment has been filled, as we have all witnessed and participated in, twists and turns. Our hearts still run with the emotions of the attacks on our Nation on 9/11. Our sorrow became our resolve to protect our homeland with all of the tools that could possibly be at our disposal.

Under the President's leadership, al-Qaida was chased from Afghanistan, and that country was freed. To head off an imminent threat, our country toppled Saddam Hussein from his dictatorship in 3 short weeks.

To begin the process of making our country safer here at home, we created the Department of Homeland Security. And now we take another large step forward—not the last, but another large step forward—by recognizing that our intelligence community needed reorganization, responding to that reorganization, and doing that reorganization for the first time in 50 years. Change is never easy—the summer and fall have been proof of that maxim—but big change is on the way for our intelligence community, change that will serve our country to make it safer and more secure.

I can't credit enough the careful and thorough work of the chairman of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee. At my request she cancelled all summer plans and, with her counterpart on the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, Senator LIEBERMAN,