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Senate

(Legislative day of Thursday, October 6, 2005)

The Senate met at 8:15 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM DEMINT, a Senator from the State of South Carolina.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Gracious God, sustainer of our lives, rescue us from the faults to which we are so prone. Keep us from saying one thing and doing another. Save us from criticizing in others what we condone in ourselves. Deliver us from demanding of others standards we make no effort to fulfill. Give us wisdom not to flirt with temptation but to avoid even the near occasion to sin. Protect us from an indecision that can't say yes or no and from a reluctance to break habits we know are wrong.

Bless our Senators today. Keep them from trying to please both others and You. Save us all from anything which would keep us from loving You with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM DEMINT 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 7, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM DEMINT, a Senator from the State of South Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. DEMINT 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, this morning, the Senate will vote on the Defense appropriations bill. That vote will occur at 9:15 this morning. I thank and commend Senator STEVENS for his patience and perseverance in getting this bill to the President.

We must complete action on the Homeland Security appropriations conference report before we leave. Senators will be notified if further votes are scheduled.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2863, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2863) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reed/Hagel amendment No. 1943, to transfer certain amounts from the supplemental authorizations of appropriations for Iraq, Afghanistan, and the Global War on Terrorism to amounts for Operation and Maintenance, Army, Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps, Operation and Maintenance, Defense-wide activities, and Military Personnel in order to provide for increased personnel strengths for the Army and the Marine Corps for fiscal year 2006.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senator from Louisiana, Ms. LANDRIEU, is recognized until the hour of 9:15.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, as the majority leader stated a moment ago, I also thank Senators STEVENS and INOUYE, who worked here very late last night as we got to the end of the debate on the Defense bill. Of course, under the rules we have established, we could speak on that bill for up to 30 hours. Those 30 hours will be coming to an end at 9:15 under the rules of cloture.

Throughout the 30 hours as we debate this very important bill which funds our military men and women and continues their operations moving forward and helps to try to find a solution in Iraq and allocates resources to keep our military strong, we also have been talking a great deal about keeping strong right here at home, particularly keeping strong in the areas that need strength and support right now. That area, of course, is the gulf coast of our Nation, the great energy coast, the great trade coast, the great commerce coast. There are so many important parts of that coast, but the largest city, of course, in the middle of that coast is New Orleans, my hometown.

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

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