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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the PRESIDENT pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Our Father in heaven, today we praise You because Your loving kindness endures forever. You have blessed this land with freedom and abundance. Thank You for spacious skies and amber waves of grain.

Teach us to be thankful even when we face problems and pain as Your spirit opens our eyes to Your unfailing goodness.

Bless the Members of this body. May their labors today flow out of a pure heart, a good conscience, and a sincere faith. Give them trust and confidence in Your guidance and a reverence and humility in Your presence.

Keep us all from trying to please both others and You. We pray in Your holy Name. 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.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we will begin a 1-hour period for debate

prior to the cloture vote with respect to the LIHEAP bill. I ask unanimous consent that the 1 hour be for debate only.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I expect that vote to occur sometime shortly before 11 a.m. this morning. If cloture is invoked—and I hope it will be—then we will be working toward an agreement that will allow us to finish the bill as quickly as possible today.

We will be returning to the lobbying reform bill today. We will begin considering amendments. Therefore, in addition to the LIHEAP bill, we will have votes in relation to the amendments to the lobbying reform bill.

I also expect the Senate to recess from 12:30 until 2:15 for the weekly party luncheons.

I say again to all colleagues who want to finish the lobbying bill this week that we certainly want to allow adequate time for Members to offer amendments. I urge Members to come forward early. We would like to lock in a filing deadline as soon as possible. As a matter of fact, I hope that we could lock in a filing deadline for today and therefore give our managers their best opportunity to schedule consideration of the amendments as soon as possible.

Again, we expect to be working into the evening each night in an effort to finish the bill as soon as possible.

### FLAG PROTECTION AMENDMENT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, every morning we open the Senate by reciting, as we just did a few moments ago, the Pledge of Allegiance. Hand over heart, we pay solemn tribute to the American flag, that sacred symbol of America's history, values, and principles.

We are reminded that we are but servants, momentary players in the great unfolding of the American story. The flag—transcendent, noble, still—

commands our humility and binds us in the common project of serving the body politic. It is with this understanding that, before Congress adjourns for the Fourth of July recess, I intend to bring the flag protection amendment to the floor.

The proposed amendment is simple. It is a one-sentence statement that reads: "The Congress shall have the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States."

Along with 80 percent of the American public and all 50 of our State legislatures, I believe the Constitution should allow laws that protect our flag.

Unfortunately, in 1989, the Supreme Court overturned 200 years of precedent and struck down all laws that prohibit flag desecration. I believe their decision was misguided. In my view, desecrating the flag is not speech but an act of physical assault. We know this when we see rioting mobs in foreign countries setting our flag on fire. We can see clearly that they are engaged in a specific act of physical aggression against our country and everything for which we stand. Whether inside or outside our borders, burning the American flag is intended to intimidate, not to engage in constructive speech.

I believe the amendment process is the appropriate remedy to the Court's 1989 decision. As Harvard law professor Richard Parker explains:

The amendment process is essential to the Constitution's deepest foundation—the principle of popular sovereignty affirmed in its first words, "We the people." Making use of this process reaffirms and thus preserves that foundation.

Since I first came to the Senate in 1995, I have supported a constitutional amendment to protect our flag.

The flag is not only the physical symbol of our Nation, our pride, and our in history, but also of our values:

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



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