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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 2, 2006, at 11 a.m.

## Senate

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2006

The Senate met at 9:46 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.

Author of wisdom, source of all goodness, keep us from confusion. Today guide Your Senators. Help them to discern between good and evil and to recognize the greater good and the lesser evil. Give them the ability to understand each other and to find common ground. Infuse them with a wisdom that will foster sound judgment and correct appraisal. Save them from being destroyed by the trivial and from wasting their energy on the incidental. Lead them out of confusion into simplicity.

We pray in Your loving 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, August 1, 2006.

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 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 we will immediately return to debate on S. 3711, the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security bill.

Yesterday, the Senate by a bipartisan vote of 72 to 23 invoked cloture on the bill. Under last night's order, we will proceed to vote on passage of the bill at 5 o'clock today. Senators will be able to deliver their comments on the bill throughout the day, and the time will be equally divided until 5 p.m.

As I stated yesterday, we have other important issues to consider this week before leaving. With respect to that, a lot of colleagues on both sides of the aisle have come up and asked about how I plan to proceed this week on the pensions bill and the so-called trifecta bill, both of which came over from the House Friday night.

I talked to the distinguished minority leader about the best way to proceed over the next few days, given everyone's curiosity. I will have more to say about that schedule later today. As we talk more about these bills in our various caucuses, when it comes to these two items, I should take a couple of minutes to lay out a few things.

As I have said consistently since Saturday morning, my priorities are simple. We are going to complete action on a very important retirement security bill which protects the pensions of literally millions of Americans before we leave.

Second, to test the Senate's views on the so-called trifecta bill, a package which includes a final resolution of the death tax issue, as well as extension of various tax policies critical to Americans who are trying to create businesses, to start a business, to raise a family, to get that first job, and to invest and save for the future; this package also addresses the minimum wage increase. It is what we are calling—the press started calling and now we are referring to it as the trifecta package.

I want to be crystal clear—and my colleagues know this because a lot of them are making plans for the recess—that this week will be the time and the floor will be the place for the Senate to decide once and for all whether to act on this trifecta bill or to kill it.

First things first. The pensions bill itself is an important bill which, as I mentioned, affects the lives of millions of Americans. It is a must-pass bill. It must pass this week. If we fail to act, billions of dollars of new debt will be thrown onto the Federal Treasury, and

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



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