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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 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.

Eternal Father, You are always the same. Help our legislative leaders to be honest and fair. May our lawmakers labor for justice and peace. As You use them for Your purposes, deliver them from moral paralysis and spiritual inertia.

Make them voices for those who are captives of injustice and oppression. Use them to rescue the hopeless, to help the hurting, and to have pity on the weak. Because of their faithfulness, let this Nation prosper like flowers in a well-kept garden.

As we praise You, Our Father, show Your glory throughout our world.

We pray in Your glorious 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, the leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 1 hour, with the first half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee and the second half of the time under the control of the majority leader or his designee.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we have a period of 1 hour of morning business to start today's session. Following morning business, we have 1 hour of debate prior to a scheduled cloture vote on the pending amendment relating to military tribunals, to the military commissions. Before that cloture vote begins, the Democratic leader and I will continue to work toward an agreement that would allow us to consider the military tribunal legislation as a free-standing measure under a specific time agreement. We started talking about that yesterday and worked through the night, and we will continue over the course of the morning to reach that agreement. We are working in good faith toward an understanding on this bill and hope we will be able to work that out prior to that 11:30 a.m. vote. I will keep our colleagues posted as to the outcome of those talks.

If we are able to reach a consent agreement, then I will vitiate the order for the cloture vote, and we will proceed directly to the military tribunals, the so-called Hamdan legislation, today. Votes will likely occur throughout the afternoon either on the cloture vote on that issue or on amendments that may be considered to the free-standing bill.

We have a number of other important items to consider this week. The Defense appropriations conference report has been filed, and we do not expect that to take very much time at all. It may even be that we can do that at some point later today.

We have the Homeland Security appropriations that will shortly be completed, as well as other conference reports that are underway, such as port security, which may become available.

I remind my colleagues that we have a policy meeting on this side of the aisle to occur from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. today. If we can schedule debate on one of these issues during that time, we will likely be able to remain in session in order to make progress.

I have a brief statement. Does the Democratic leader have comments?

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

### WORKING ON A UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I appreciate the majority leader yielding. So everyone understands where we are, let me repeat what the majority leader said. As things now stand, we are going to have a cloture vote on the Hamdan matter, the Supreme Court detainee situation that now confronts the country, sometime this evening.

What we are going to try to do in the next hour or so is work out a unanimous consent agreement that there will be amendments allowed to be offered on the Hamdan matter. There would be amendments. We would agree between the leader and me as to how much time will be on the amendments.

I have cleared this matter with most everyone. As I told the leader today, I still have to work things out with two other members of the Judiciary Committee. Hopefully, I can do that. If not, what will happen is cloture will be invoked on Hamdan and then 30 hours will start, and there will be cloture on the fence bill, the barrier bill, sometime tomorrow. We are trying to work our way through this so the Hamdan matter will have some debate on it and some amendments offered on it. We are doing our best to do that.

As I said yesterday, late in a session such as this, everyone becomes a

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



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