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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 5, 2006, at 10 a.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2006

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us Your wisdom when our vision fails, our understanding is darkened, and the ways of life seem difficult. Deepen our faith when our sight is dim. Guide our thoughts when we lack understanding.

Bless our Senators. Infuse them with quiet confidence and patient trust in You. Reinforce their courage with the knowledge of Your loving providence. When they are frustrated, remind them that You are still holding things together.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU 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, November 16, 2006.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SUNUNU 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, I again want to congratulate the new leadership in the Senate for the 110th Congress. Democrats 2 days ago elected their leadership and the Republicans yesterday elected our leadership. A lot of planning is underway for the 110th Congress. As everyone knows, we have before us the objective of finishing the business of the 109th Congress, both over the course of today and possibly tomorrow, and then in a period that will begin the week of December 4, and possibly continue into the week following that. Both the Democratic leader and I have outlined what we have to

accomplish. It is still a very long list in terms of appropriations bills, in terms of the United States-India nuclear agreement, in terms of potentially other trade agreements. We have tax extenders and a whole range of issues.

The Democratic leader and I will go into a quorum call very shortly and we will finalize the plan for today. But as we stated yesterday, before we leave this week—either tomorrow or we could finish later tonight—we do need to finish the United States-India nuclear agreement. We talked yesterday in our own conference about the importance of that particular piece of legislation, legislation that all our colleagues are familiar with, and we have a unanimous consent agreement to proceed to that with a fixed number of amendments. If you look at the amendments, it is clear that we won't have to do all of those amendments on that legislation. So I am confident that we can and we will finish that bill before we leave.

We do have an understanding that we will go to the agriculture appropriations bill as well. At some point I want to be able to do that and hopefully we can work out the details on how we can accomplish at least starting that particular bill, with the objective of finishing the United States-India nuclear agreement before we leave. So in the next few minutes we will be coming back with an announcement of that schedule as agreed to, but we will finish that bill before we leave.

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



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