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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JAMES WEBB, a Senator from the State of Virginia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, on yesterday, we remembered the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This morning, we invite You to enter the gates of our hearts. Lord, come into our lives and remove all false pride and disunity, replacing them with humility and harmony.

Reside with the Members of this legislative body. Create within them a hunger for holiness. May they dedicate their labors as a gift of love to You, consecrating even their thoughts for Your honor. Generate in their minds a spirit of expectancy that the best is yet to be. Increase their joy and peace as they experience the power of Your presence.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JAMES WEBB 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. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 16, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JAMES WEBB, a Senator from the State of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB 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. REID. Mr. President, the Senate will begin a period of morning business until 1 p.m., with the first hour under the control of the Senator from Oregon, Mr. WYDEN, the second hour under the control of the Republicans, and the final hour equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

At 1 p.m., we will resume consideration of the ethics legislation. Cloture was filed on amendment No. 4, the so-called corporate jets amendment. Cloture was also filed on the substitute amendment and the bill. First-degree amendments need to be filed at the desk by 10:30 this morning, and any second-degree amendments should be filed by 4:30 p.m. today. There will be three votes starting at 5:30 today: the Durbin second-degree amendment regarding earmarks; the DeMint first-degree amendment regarding earmarks, as amended, if amended; and then the cloture vote on Reid amendment No. 4. Members should plan their schedules accordingly and remember that rollcall votes are 15 minutes, with a 5-minute grace period.

We are going to finish this legislation this week. If we finish it Thursday, we will be through Thursday. If the Republican leader agrees, we will finish it

Thursday; otherwise, we will push on until we finish this legislation. I hope we can do it Thursday or Friday, but if we have to be here over the weekend, we are going to do it. We are going to finish this legislation. If cloture is not invoked, we will make a decision at that time as to what we will do with the legislation. We have made a lot of progress. There are still a lot of amendments out there floating around, and we will have to see what the body wants to do with those. That will be determined tonight with the cloture votes.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

COMPLETING ACTION ON S. 1

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I say to my good friend, the majority leader, I share his view that we ought to wrap up this legislation this week. We intend to cooperate toward that end. There are some additional amendments over here on which we would hope we could get votes. But I, too, share the view that this legislation should be completed later this week. I will be talking with the majority leader about how to move toward that end.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the

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



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