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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, January 29, 2007, at 2 p.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2007

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BOB CASEY, Jr., a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.
Eternal Lord God, in whose life we find our life, today hold our Senators within Your providential hand. Guide them when they feel perplexed and strengthen them to meet every challenge. Infuse them with courage and keep them close to You.

As they seek to represent You, fill them with Your peace. Do for them what they cannot accomplish in their own strength. Give them a new delight for matters of drudgery, a new patience with difficult people, and a new zest for unfinished details. Let Your spirit rule in their lives.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BOB CASEY, Jr., 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 25, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BOB CASEY, Jr., a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CASEY 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, we will return to the consideration of H.R. 2 this morning. Last night, we entered into an agreement that there be a vote in relation to amendment No. 158, and that vote will occur around 10:30 this morning. Last night, we worked on a number of amendments. We are anxious to meet with the Republican staff this morning. We are ready to vote on the DeMint amendment dealing with minimum wage, the Sessions amendment dealing with immigration, the Ensign amendment dealing with health savings accounts, the Smith amendment dealing with education, the Bunning amendment dealing with Social Security, and the Kyl amendment

dealing with expensing. We hope to get votes on these and other amendments as the day progresses. If we can get other votes keyed up, it could be a late night.

We are going to vote tomorrow on the confirmation of General Petraeus, who will be the new commander in Iraq. The Foreign Relations Committee reported that out yesterday. It may have been the Armed Services Committee. I think it was. One of the committees reported it out. There is a lot of activity. It is in the Senate, and we will take care of that tomorrow. We are trying to line up a judge vote in the morning, also. Then I am going to be discussing with the distinguished Republican leader as to what we will do at the end of the week and get keyed up for next week.

RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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

PROGRESS ON H.R. 2

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, let me echo the remarks of my friend, the majority leader. We will vote on the DeMint amendment 1 hour from now. I am pleased to hear that we will be moving forward on a number of amendments to be offered on this side of the aisle.

There are 17 pending amendments to the substitute and more than 80 additional amendments filed at the desk.

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



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