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## Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the Honorable AMY KLOBUCHAR, a Senator from the State of Minnesota.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, creator of summer and winter, teach us to appreciate life's seasons. May the snow and ice that surround us today remind us of our dependence on You in life's sunshine and shadows.

Sustain our Senators during this national season of challenge and uncertainty. Teach them that the One who designed the seasons can order their steps and direct their destinies. Meet their deepest needs with Your great power and love. Strengthen their resolve to press on in their efforts to do Your will.

As they grapple with complex issues, give them the peace of knowing that You are already working on solutions. Help them never to forget that You alone are the source of security, peace, and hope throughout the seasons of our years. We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable AMY KLOBUCHAR 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, February 14, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable AMY KLOBUCHAR, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR 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. Madam President, today following whatever time the leaders might utilize, the Senate will be in morning business for 1 hour, with the time equally divided and Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Yesterday, cloture was invoked on the continuing funding resolution by a vote of 71 to 26. We need to run the 30 hours postcloture. Then all time will expire at 8:52 this evening.

Following morning business, we will resume consideration of the funding resolution.

I have had discussions with the Republican leader about other matters which we might consider prior to adjourning for the February recess. Among those would be several judicial nominations on which I have acknowledged on previous occasions we would be able to secure a time agreement. Members will be apprised of the likelihood or the possibility of votes today.

### CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I would like to say that this 110th Congress,

when we came here, Democrats and Republicans alike had a real problem because the last Congress only funded the Government until February 15. With cooperation between Democrats and Republicans, difficult negotiations took place, but it was a situation where Senators COCHRAN and BYRD, who lead us in the Appropriations Committee, working with Chairman OBEY on the other side of the Capitol, together with all ranking members and all chairs of the subcommittees on both sides, worked through these difficult issues. And they were difficult. We had not enough money to do all that is necessary to be done, but we got it done without a single earmark. I know this was difficult.

There are issues that are so troubling. There is a Senator on the other side of the aisle, JOHNNY ISAKSON from Georgia. I don't know how you could find a nicer person in the world than JOHNNY ISAKSON. He is pleasant. He always has a smile on his face. He has an issue that is really important to him concerning children and health—something that should be in this bill. It is not.

KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON, the senior Senator from Texas, has an issue dealing with BRAC that has bipartisan support. There are bases that we legislated closure for, and communities are having difficult times as a result of these base closures doing all that needs to be done, and we promised them money to allow these closures to go forward without as much concern and real hardship. But there wasn't anything we could do. If we had a single amendment on this bill, it had to go back for conference.

As a result of that, it would mean that very likely we couldn't complete this by tomorrow night at midnight. I have made commitments to a number of people that we are going to take care of these things in the supplemental which should be here the last week in March, and I am going to do

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



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