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Senate

The Senate met at 2:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose power moves in the changes of the seasons and in the circuit of the stars, let Your gentle strength live in each of our hearts.

Today, infuse our Senators with Your wisdom so that in their coming and going they will walk in the path of Your will. Lord, keep them faithful. Amid the haste and hurry of their labors this week, remind them to spend time with You so that they experience You as the joy and strength of true living. Quicken their faith and hope; give them Your perfect calm as they aspire to honor You. Make their lives a gift of Your love to a hurting world.

Much like the gift of Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson, Lord, we thank You and praise You for his life and witness. Today, comfort the millions who are mourning his death. We humbly pray these things in the Name of Him who was in the beginning and will be in the end. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK L. PRYOR 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 bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 26, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. PRYOR thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be an extra 30 minutes for morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this afternoon, the Senate will be in a period for morning business. At 3:30 p.m., the Senate will proceed to consideration of the supplemental appropriations bill, H.R. 1591. As I announced earlier, there will be no rollcall votes today. This week is slated to be the last week of the work period prior to the Easter recess. However, we must work toward finishing the supplemental before we can do this, and I am going to be meeting in the next few minutes with the distinguished Republican leader to see if that is possible to do.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 545

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is my understanding that H.R. 545 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title for a second time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 545) to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to clarify that territories and Indian tribes are eligible to receive grants for confronting the use of methamphetamine.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now object to any further proceedings at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The measure will be placed on the calendar.

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, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business until 3:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to make a brief statement, but I believe the majority leader may have one as well.

Mr. REID. Please, go ahead.

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



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