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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

God of love and judgment, show us Your mercy and forgiveness today. Pardon us for neglecting to do right; for remaining silent when we should speak; for ignoring the whisper of conscience; for looking away from the oppressed; and for being poor stewards of Your bounty. Show us Your mercy for our failure to embrace humility, for our excessive dependence upon our wisdom, and for our reluctance to build stronger bridges of cooperation and friendship.

God of love and judgment, gently lead our lawmakers to a growth in ethical fitness that will enable them to glorify Your Name. May their moral development bear such visible fruits that people will lift praises to You. We pray in Your precious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON TESTER 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, May 17, 2007.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. TESTER 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, this morning, following any time utilized by Senator MCCONNELL and myself, the Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 2206, the emergency supplemental legislation. There will be an hour of debate prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Reid-McConnell substitute amendment. The time is also equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The cloture vote will occur around 10:45. If cloture is invoked, and we expect that it will be, the Senate will immediately agree to the amendment and then go to a vote on the passage of the legislation. Therefore, there will be 2 rollcall votes expected this morning.

Following the completion of the action on the supplemental, the Senate will begin debate on the conference report accompanying the budget resolution. Senators GREGG and CONRAD have worked on this through the entire process. They are two veteran legislators, and they understand this issue more than anyone else in the Senate and probably in the country. We will have that vote, hopefully, around 3:30, between 3:30 and 4:30 this afternoon, if all things go well. We are waiting for the House to pass it. I think they will do that around 3:30 this afternoon.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2206, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2206) making emergency supplemental appropriations and additional supplemental appropriations for agricultural and other emergency assistance for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2007, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid/McConnell amendment No. 1123, in the nature of a substitute.

Reid/McConnell amendment No. 1124 (to amendment No. 1123), expressing the sense of the Congress that no action should be taken to undermine the safety of the Armed Forces of the United States or impact their ability to complete their assigned or future missions.

Reid amendment No. 1125 (to amendment No. 1124), expressing the sense of the Congress that no action should be taken to undermine the safety of the Armed Forces of the United States or impact their ability to complete their assigned or future missions.

Reid amendment No. 1126 (to the instructions of the motion to commit H.R. 2206), expressing the sense of the Congress that no action should be taken to undermine the safety of the Armed Forces of the United States or impact their ability to complete their assigned or future missions.

Reid amendment No. 1127 (to the instructions of the motion to commit (to amendment No. 1126)), expressing the sense of the Congress that no action should be taken to undermine the safety of the Armed Forces of the United States or impact their ability to complete their assigned or future missions.

Reid amendment No. 1128 (to amendment No. 1127), expressing the sense of the Congress that no action should be taken to undermine the safety of the Armed Forces of

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



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