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Senate

The Senate met at 10 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 our destinies, help our spirits to be attuned to the graciousness of this season. Keep us from emotions that thwart Your purposes and fill us with Your measureless love. Lord, the legislative process often involves disagreements at deep levels, but deliver our lawmakers from disagreeable spirits. In respect for and appreciation of those who differ, help our Senators, in patience, to find the way of truth in love.

As we celebrate Chanukah, "festival of lights," and Christmas, the birth of Christ, let the full meaning of these celebrations reach us. As You caused 1 day's supply of consecrated oil to keep lamps burning for 8 days in the rededication of the temple desecrated by Emperor Antiochus, make the light of Your knowledge glow on Capitol Hill and let the glorious message of Christmas and peace on Earth, good will toward all guide our deliberations.

We pray in the Name of He who promises salvation to all. 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 read a communication to the Senate.

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 4, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule 1, 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.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that whatever time the distinguished Republican leader and I take today not be used against the morning business hour.

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senate will conduct morning business for an hour with Republicans controlling the first half, the majority controlling the final portion. Following this period of morning business, the Senate will resume debate on the Peru trade bill. The limit on debate this morning will be about 90 minutes. Once this time is used, the Senate will recess until 2:15 this afternoon, and at that time there will be a vote on passage of the Peru trade bill.

SENATOR TRENT LOTT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, during my time in public office, I have had the opportunity to serve with many good men and women. During my time serving in Congress, I have had the opportunity to make a friendship with TRENT LOTT.

Senator Daschle gave me the freedom, during the 6 years I was assistant leader and he was the leader, to spend all my time on the Senate floor, and I did that. Senator Daschle did other things, but he trusted me. I hope I did the right thing—I sure tried to do that all the time I worked with him—but I lived on the floor of the Senate.

During much of that time TRENT LOTT was the Republican leader, and we worked together over those years, I think, in a way that speaks well of our country. We made "deals." Legislation is the art of compromise, consensus building. Even though TRENT LOTT is certainly a true conservative, we were able, in his pragmatic fashion, to work things out.

TRENT has an interesting background. He was born in Mississippi. His family settled in a place called Pascagoula. His father was a pipefitter. His mother taught school. She was an elementary school teacher. The public school that Senator LOTT attended now bears his name. He received a degree from the University of Mississippi and also got his law degree from the same institution. That is a wonderful community, Oxford, MS. I have had an opportunity to spend a little bit of time there. There is a beautiful community square. It is like I envision the South as it used to be.

He married a beautiful woman, Tricia—Tricia Thompson Lott. They were college sweethearts. My wife, who is a shy woman—always has been—has worked with Tricia on a number of different issues and has been so enamored of her, with what a wonderful woman Tricia is. She is a hard worker. Whenever projects are involved, she does more than her share.

They have two children, Chet and Tyler. They have four grandchildren.

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



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