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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.

Eternal God, all things, all places, all people belong to You. You have promised that those who seek You will find You. Strengthen our faith to believe that You will be with us wherever the circumstances may lead. Continue to sustain the Members of this body as they confront challenges. Give them the wisdom to depend on You.

Heal wounded spirits, troubled consciences, and remove cares. Provide them with wisdom to perceive You, intelligence to understand You, and diligence to seek You. Replenish their physical strength when the days are long and give them resiliency for the difficult road ahead.

We ask this in the name of Him who supplies all our needs. 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, March 5, 2008.

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, following my remarks and those of the Republican Leader, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for an hour, with the time divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the Consumer Product Safety Commission legislation.

Mr. President, I certainly complain when things do not go well here on the floor and we are unable to legislate. I think that what has transpired on the CPSC legislation is how we should legislate. I hope it continues that way. In that regard, it appears we have a piece of legislation—it is bipartisan in nature, it came out of the committee after much consternation. We were concerned that we could not get anything out of there. We finally did get something out of the committee. It looks like a very good piece of bipartisan legislation.

We are going to finish this bill this week. I hope we can finish it sooner rather than later. I alerted my caucus that we would be in session until we do finish the bill, but there is no reason we cannot finish this very quickly. I see no reason we have to move to clo-

ture. If that becomes necessary, I will certainly talk to the distinguished Republican leader. But I do not see that on the horizon at this stage.

I hope we can move forward on this legislation. I would comment on this: The managers of the bill are somewhat hesitant on an amendment. They did not know if we should vote on it. That was handled properly when the manager of the bill, Senator PRYOR, moved to table an amendment.

That is the way to go, not worry about people talking too much or, well, they are not going to let us vote on it. The manager of the bill has that prerogative when someone offers an amendment. They say their piece, they move to table. It is nondebatable. And we need to do that on this legislation and other pieces of legislation and not worry so much about a difficult vote.

So I hope we can move forward as we have and finish this legislation as quickly as possible.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to use my leader time.

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

### AMT IMPACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, last week our friends on the other side pulled the housing bill. But the problem the bill was meant to address obviously does not go away. The effects of the housing downturn continue to spread.

Yesterday the Fed Chairman called for a vigorous response from banks and

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



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