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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who knows all things and from whom nothing is hidden; limitless, timeless, and unchanging, You told us in James 4:2 that we "have not because we ask not." So, Lord, today, we again ask You to heal Senator KENNEDY. We claim for him Your promise in Isaiah 53:5 that "with Your stripes" he can be healed.

Lord, we also ask that You will fill this Chamber with Your glory; fill our minds with Your wisdom; fill our hearts with Your love. Guide our Senators in their deliberations. Remind them that when they feel overwhelmed, You have promised to give them Your wisdom. Lead them in the way of peace and unity, as You bind them together to keep our Nation strong.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN 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 21, 2008.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CARDIN 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 the use of leader time, there will be a period of morning business until 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the majority controlling the first 30 minutes and the Republicans the next 30 minutes. The time from 11 a.m. until 12 noon today is reserved for tributes to former President Lyndon B. Johnson, commemorating the centennial of his birth. This afternoon, we expect to resume consideration of the House message with respect to the emergency supplemental appropriations bill. The speaking order during the time reserved for LBJ tributes will alternate between the majority and the minority.

As a reminder, cloture was filed last night on amendment No. 4803 related to domestic funding. Under rule XXII, the filing deadline for second-degree amendments is 1 hour prior to the cloture vote tomorrow.

Mr. President, we have second readings. But before getting to that, we also are trying to work out a time agreement, even today. Under the rule, the budget cannot be brought up until tomorrow afternoon at about 4 o'clock. But we can, by unanimous consent, move it to today. If we can work something out with the Republicans today, we will do that.

Last night, Senator CONRAD said he was going to confer with Senator JUDD GREGG, the ranking member of that committee, to see if there is a way we can move to that and shorten the hours. Statutorily, it is a 10-hour time limit. If we start on that tomorrow, the 10 hours would run into the next day.

We know Senator INOUE and Senator STEVENS are not going to be here Friday. They are going to Senator INOUE's wedding. Senator INOUE is getting married. Senator STEVENS is his best man. So we need to try to finish that before Friday morning.

In addition to that, we have the veto override on the farm bill we need to complete. Now, on that there is no time limit. People can talk however long they want. I would hope we would not have to spend a lot of time on that bill. That bill has been debated about as much as anything needs to be debated. It had 81 votes when it left this Chamber. We would hope everyone would recognize we need to dispose of this as quickly as possible. I hope we can get those two matters going.

I have also made a suggestion to the Republican leader—I spoke to the floor staff last night, together with my floor staff—and there will be a decision made by the majority and the Republicans, through Senator MCCONNELL and me, today to see if we can arrive at some way to proceed reasonably to this emergency supplemental.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3036 AND S. 3044

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there are two bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the titles of the bills for a second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3036) to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a program to decrease emissions of greenhouse gases, and for other purposes.

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



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