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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 7, 2009, at 2 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JULY 6, 2009

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, architect and creator of our destinies, we marvel at Your power, majesty, and might. From the beginning, Your grace has underlain the foundations of our lives, so we ask that You would lead us in the paths of Your purposes.

Today, awoken in our lawmakers the ability to see the opportunities that exist in the challenges they face. May this knowledge motivate them to move forward with faith and optimism. Lord, show them unused resources that can be mobilized to solve problems and to make dreams come true. When they experience doubts and uncertainties, give them the wisdom to ask You for Your guidance that will save them from all false choices.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK R. WARNER 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, July 6, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER 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 leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Following that morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2918, the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill. Senators should expect at least two rollcall votes to begin at about 5:30 this evening. Those votes will be in relation to the McCain amendment and passage of the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill.

There are a few other amendments in order, but I have been told by the man-

ager of the bill, Senator NELSON, that he doubts there will be other rollcall votes.

We hope to reach an agreement to begin consideration of the Homeland Security Appropriations bill tomorrow.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I, of course, wish to welcome you and all my colleagues back after the July 4 recess. Now we are closer to the end of this year than the beginning of this year. We have much to be proud of, but our time is short and we have much to do in the coming weeks and months. So far this year we started to get our country back on track by passing bills that have already started to revive our economy. Have we revived it enough? Of course not. But what position would we be in, what kind of financial meltdown would the world be in, had we not moved forward? We have already started to strengthen our national security. We have started to protect our environment. We have started to demand accountability from government agencies and entities. We have started promoting equality and ensuring progress, as America returns to being positively viewed by the world community.

Norman Ornstein, a resident scholar at the conservative American Enterprise Institute, calls this Congress "as active and productive as any I can remember." He went on to say: "The number of major bills passed and enacted into law—serious, sustained activities in areas of broad, complex 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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