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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SAM BROWNBACK, a Senator from the State of Kansas.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty Father, the giver of gifts, help us to live in purity. Make all our thoughts so pure that they will bear Your scrutiny. Make all our desires so pure that they will be rooted in Your purposes. Make all our words so pure that You will find pleasure in hearing them. Make all our actions so pure that people will know that we are Your children.

Guide our lawmakers through the challenges of this day. Keep them from words that harm and do not help, from deeds that obstruct and do not build, from habits that shackle and do not liberate, and from ambitions that take and do not give.

Give to us all the blessings of asking and receiving, of seeking and finding, and of knocking and opening.

We pray in Your sovereign name.
Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SAM BROWNBACK 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. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 28, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SAM BROWNBACK, a Senator from the State of Kansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BROWNBACK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JOHN G. ROBERTS, JR., TO BE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Calendar No. 317, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John G. Roberts, Jr., of Maryland, to be Chief Justice of the United States.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. will be under the control of the majority leader, or his designee.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today the Senate resumes consideration of the nomination of John Roberts to be Chief Justice of the United States. Tomorrow

at 11:30 we will vote on this nomination. Again, I remind all Senators to be at their desks for that vote. This is among the most significant votes that most of us will cast in our Senate careers, the approval of the nomination of Chief Justice of the United States. We ask Senators to come to the Chamber around 11:20 to be seated for the 11:30 vote.

Following the confirmation on Judge Roberts, the Senate will take up the Defense appropriations bill. Senators should expect votes on Thursday, and we will be voting on Friday on the appropriations bill or any other legislative or executive items that are cleared for action.

I was talking to the Democratic leader to make sure that we are voting on Friday of this week.

We also have a continuing resolution that we must act on this week before the end of the fiscal year. Therefore, I ask that Senators adjust whatever plans they have for the weekend or for Friday to recognize that we will be voting. We will not be voting on Monday or Tuesday in observance of the Jewish holiday. But the Senate will be in session to conduct business and discussing amendments. Those amendments will be stacked for votes on Wednesday. We will notify Senators as to what time that will be. I encourage Senators to come forward and offer their amendments as early as possible so we can vote on Wednesday.

PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

Mr. President, on another issue, an important issue—we have so much going on in this body with the appropriations bills, and the nomination coming forward, and that is going very well in terms of the discussion on both sides of the aisle. But there are many other issues as well.

I want to focus for a few minutes on an issue I do not believe is receiving the attention it deserves given the risk that is before us.

Yesterday, I sent a letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Michael

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



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