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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the PRESIDENT pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Spirit of life, breathe Your grace in us. During this period of Rosh Hashanah and Ramadan, remind us about the blessing of having people touch our lives. Thank You for the people who live exemplary lives and show us what productive living should be. Thank You for the people who inspire us, who motivate us to strive for noble things. Thank You for the people who comfort us, who help ease life's hurts. Thank You for the people who strengthen us, who give us courage to tackle the difficult. Thank You for the people who enlighten us through the written word.

Thank You for our Senators, who work to keep us free. Give them the wisdom to keep their hearts pure, their minds clean, their words true, and their deeds kind.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore 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.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in just a few moments, we will resume negotiations on the Defense appropriations bill. Last night, we worked well into the evening and were able to make relative progress on the bill. The Senate voted overwhelmingly last night to invoke cloture. Therefore, today we will be proceeding with amendments that qualify under rule XXII.

I thank Members for their patience last night during our series of stacked votes. I particularly thank those Members—especially Senators STEVENS and INOUE—who have worked so aggressively on the bill and who over the course of the day will continue to try to clear amendments on both sides of the aisle. We will have votes over the course of the day on those amendments.

We can and should push forward on this bill today and tonight and try to finish the bill. If necessary, we will be here tomorrow to complete our work for the week. There are a number of other issues that are currently being discussed, debated, and talked about, including the homeland security conference report as well as pensions legislation, which I have mentioned regularly.

I hope we will be able to proceed with the cooperation of all Senators over the course of the day as we seek final passage of the Defense appropriations bill. The time does expire early in the morning tomorrow. Thus, we should work toward completing that bill this afternoon and this evening.

### HUNGARIAN PRIME MINISTER

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, later this afternoon, several of my colleagues and I have the honor of hosting Hungarian Prime Minister Ferenc Gyurcsany in the U.S. Capitol.

The Prime Minister has served for just a little bit over 1 year. His country, as we all know, is a valued friend

and ally of the United States. Hungary's transition to a Western-style parliamentary democracy was the first and smoothest of the countries formally under the dominion of the Soviet bloc.

In May of 1990, Hungary held its first free parliamentary election. In the intervening years, Hungary has made tremendous strides in strengthening its democratic foundation and becoming more integrated in the Euro-Atlantic institutions. It became a full NATO ally in March of 1999. Last spring, it earned full membership to the European Union, the EU.

Today, the United States and Hungary maintain a positive and a productive bilateral relationship. Our two countries work closely together and through international organizations such as the EU and NATO. In particular, Hungary has been a steadfast ally for the United States and NATO missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, and in the Balkans. It is a member of the coalition that liberated Iraq. It also contributed troops to Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan and has played an important role in the training and equipping of the Afghan National Army. Recently, Hungary offered to lead one of the provincial reconstruction teams to help stabilize Afghanistan.

Hungary is a brave nation. Hungary is a proud nation. On behalf of the American people, I express my most sincere gratitude and respect for the invaluable contributions it has made to the war effort.

Hungary is also playing another invaluable role in the spread of democracy. As a nation only recently emerged from decades of tyranny, Hungary is sharing its unique lessons with today's emerging democracies. It has established an International Center for Democratic Transition to reach out and nurture the world's newest democracies. The center will act as a resource for countries in transition.

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



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