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Senate

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Hon. ROBERT F. BENNETT, a Senator from the State of Utah.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, who gives us songs in the night, we thank You for Your promises that cannot fail. You are a God of wonders and Your mercies are new every morning. Lord, You have worked in our Nation's history, doing for us what we could not accomplish with our own strength. Help us never to fear the future because we can remember how You have led us in the past. Lead our Senators today like a shepherd cares for a flock. Lord, let peace radiate in our world on wings of faith, hope, and love. We pray this in Your strong name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROBERT F. BENNETT 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, July 21, 2003.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT F. BENNETT, a Senator from the State of Utah, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BENNETT 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.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There will now be a period of morning business until the hour of 1:30, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 1:30 p.m. At 1:30, the Senate will begin consideration of the Homeland Security appropriations bill. As I mentioned—I think it was Thursday night of last week—this appropriations bill will for the first time be considered on this floor. So this is a new initiative for us. I look forward to handling that expeditiously this week in a thoughtful and deliberate way. These are very important issues before this body.

I announced previously we will not have rollcall votes today. Having said that, I encourage Members to come to the floor and proceed with their opening statements on the Homeland Security bill. Any amendment that is offered today can be debated throughout the day with a vote to occur during Tuesday's session at a time determined later.

Once again, I encourage Members who desire to offer amendments to the Homeland Security bill to contact Senator COCHRAN or the ranking member. I hope we can pass this legislation early this week and then continue with the other appropriations bills. With only 2 weeks remaining prior to the scheduled recess, we need to address as many of the appropriations bills as possible this week. As previously stated, during the last week, which is next week, we will be addressing and completing action on the Energy bill.

Last week, I discussed with the other side of the aisle the possibility of having a filing deadline for amendments to the Energy bill. I continue to hope that the objection on the Democratic side will be lifted and that we can allow Chairman DOMENICI and the ranking member to look at the legislative language of these amendments.

We first brought Energy to the floor now several months ago. It was May 6. We have had 12 days on the floor. We have a list of amendments by title. Now is the time to narrow that list, to look at the legislative language.

One of the purposes of setting aside this week at the end of this month so far in advance was that those actions and deliberations could be taken by our colleagues so we could best use the time on the floor of the Senate in a focused way and in a way that respects people's time broadly but allows adequate discussion, debate, amendment, and completion of this bill.

I do want to take a moment to congratulate the chairman of the Appropriations Committee. Last week, he made significant progress on the appropriations process, but obviously there is a lot of work to be done. I am confident that Senator STEVENS will continue along this road. He is clearly up to the task and will complete these bills in a timely fashion.

In addition to the three appropriations bills that the Senate passed last week, we were also able to continue to

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

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