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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 1, 2004, at 2 p.m.

## Senate

FRIDAY, MAY 21, 2004

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LINCOLN D. CHAFEE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

God of grace and God of glory, on Your people send Your power. You are the God of nations, the ruler of the universe. Let Your power and mercy rule those who guide us and make our laws. May our Senators feel Your presence today and receive Your wisdom as they work to safeguard our liberties. Remind them often that right defeated is better than evil that triumphs.

Look with compassion upon those who assist these leaders in their labors. Remind us all of our calling to serve You by serving others. Where our hands are closed, open. Where our hearts are shut, pry. And where our resolve is weak, prod.

Fill us with the love of truth and righteousness. We pray this in Your powerful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LINCOLN D. CHAFEE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, 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 bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 21, 2004.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable LINCOLN D. CHAFEE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,  
*President pro tempore.*

Mr. CHAFEE 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. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we will return to consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill. Senators WARNER and LEVIN are here to consider cleared amendments from both sides of the aisle. Also, some Members will wish to speak on the pending amendment which was offered by Senator GRAHAM of South Carolina. That amendment was offered yesterday morning. Unfortunately, we were unable to vote on that amend-

ment during yesterday's session. I had hoped we would be able to vote on that amendment and move forward with the bill. However, that appears unlikely. Therefore, no rollcall votes will occur during today's session.

Once again, I hope we could limit amendments to the overall bill. I know the chairman has a list of Republican amendments he will begin to work through. It would be helpful if we could lock in the list on both sides of the aisle, to give managers an idea of what to anticipate, both in terms of making progress and ultimately finishing the very, very important bill.

We did make good, reasonable progress on the bill this week. I hope Members will alert their respective chairman or ranking members about their amendments so we can continue to move ahead on this bill.

When we return from our recess, I do still plan to go to class action. As I have stated on numerous occasions, starting actually a couple of months ago, I will be talking to the Democratic leadership about proceeding to that bill. We will say more at the close of business today, after we see what progress can be made on the Department of Defense authorization bill in the course of today.

This week I was pleased we were able to reach an understanding on judicial nominations, I think a very fair and balanced approach to 25 of these nominees. We will vote on these pending nominations and we will continue to press on for votes for all of the judicial nominees in addition to those 25.

We also need—and I mentioned it last week and the week before—we need 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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