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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.

Lord, God, we lift our hearts to You. You are the one who is, and was, and always will be. You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign. Teach us to trust in Your love and in Your promises. Make Your grace abound toward us so that we will have sufficiency in all things.

Give knowledge and understanding to our Senators as they work for Your glory. Free them from entanglements that dishonor You. Fill them with gratitude for this opportunity to invest their lives in something that will outlive them. Give them each day an awareness of Your presence, and may they work for Your honor.

Teach us all to trust You, even when the road is difficult to find in life's darkness.

We pray this in Your living 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we will immediately resume consideration of the Defense authorization bill. Although I announced no rollcall

votes will occur today, we expect a number of Senators to come to the floor of the Senate to offer their amendments throughout the day. It is our expectation that some of those amendments can be fully debated today and Monday, and then we will schedule votes for Monday night.

Last night I stated that we will have our next series of rollcall votes on Monday and those votes to start around 5:30 p.m. We will have a busy day and evening on Monday and throughout Tuesday as we complete the Defense authorization bill. I continue to remind my colleagues we will be scheduling votes on the available judicial nominations each day next week.

Next week is the final week prior to the scheduled Fourth of July recess. It is expected it will be a very busy week. I advise my colleagues in advance to keep their schedules flexible in anticipation of busy floor sessions with votes each day throughout the week.

Also, as a reminder, we will be taking the official photograph of the Senate this Tuesday at 2:15. Members should be seated at their desks promptly at 2:15 to avoid missing this photograph.

I do want to thank all for their attention, and I particularly thank Senators WARNER and LEVIN for being here today managing the bill and for their continuing efforts at finishing this bill. They have been here each evening and early each morning. I appreciate their continued hard work on the bill.

MEETING IRAQI PRESIDENT SHEIK GHAZI AL-YAWR

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I want to make a brief statement in leader time on a visit I had last week with the new President of the Iraqi interim government, Sheik Ghazi al-Yawr. The distinguished minority leader, the distinguished President pro tempore, and Senators LEAHY, WARNER, LUGAR, REID, and LEVIN all participated in what was a fascinating luncheon discussion.

Our meeting was a timely one. I traveled about 12 days ago to Baghdad and had the opportunity to spend time with other leaders in Baghdad. To be able to host the President here and have a discussion about his perspective was very useful, very productive.

Two weeks ago, I was in Baghdad with Senators ENSIGN and BENNETT, and while we were there we had the opportunity to meet with the new Iraqi Prime Minister, Dr. Ayad al-Alawi. I mentioned our discussions with him on the Senate floor yesterday morning.

Our meeting this week also came on the heels of the unanimous passage on Tuesday a week ago of the U.N. Security Council resolution that governs the transfer of sovereignty to the Iraqi people as we move from occupiers to a mission presence in Iraq.

President al-Yawr at our meeting last week laid out his vision of a free Iraq. He reminded us that the Iraqi people want a free society that is governed by a rule of law. A rule of law has become a real goal of his as he looks over the next 6 months in terms of the operation of this interim government. The Iraqi people want to do what you would expect, and that is to be able to raise their children in peace and to be able to live their lives in peace. That element of security coupled with preparing for these elections 6 months from now are his dual objectives.

The President did point out and underscored the importance of the date that will occur now in 2 weeks, and that is June 30, which is the formal transfer of sovereignty. He stressed the importance of maintaining a coalition presence posthandover in order to preserve security while the new Iraqi police forces are being built and rebuilt, and the Iraqi Armed Forces are being equipped, appropriately armed, and trained. He rejected those who commit acts of terror against the Iraqi people. No Iraqi wants to return to the days when a single individual ruled that country with fear.

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



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He pledged that Iraq would serve as an example of peace and of freedom—for Iraq, yes, but even more, or equally important, I should say, as an example for the entire region.

The Iraqi people look forward to holding democratic elections and to governing themselves, he told us. But he was quick to say the Iraqi people must have that security in order to rebuild their lives.

It was interesting. When we asked him about the coalition and how broad a coalition, what he said is what the Iraqi people need is not just a broad coalition, but he needs—the Iraqi people need—an effective coalition. It is that effectiveness that ultimately is most important to him as the new President of that country. He needs people who can get the job done for him.

The President was quick to express his thanks on behalf of the Iraqi people and asked us to extend that thanks, that appreciation of the sacrifices Americans have made so the Iraqi people could live in a free country, that they would have that opportunity to live freely and to pursue democracy. He made it clear the full pursuit of democracy will take time. The first step is the election 6 months from now. It may be a series of elections before full-blown democracy, as we generally conceive of democracy, will take hold.

In these difficult times, the President of Iraq stated Iraq would need the full support of the United States of America, both politically, financially, and militarily, as they go through this transition and over the coming months.

He recognized that without a secure and stable environment the U.S. coalition provided, a democratic Iraq simply would not succeed.

President al-Yawr recognized the huge task confronting the new Iraqi government, but he was determined. He expressed that determination in every sentence, in every thought he shared with us. He stated he was encouraged by the widespread support of the Iraqi people for the new interim government.

He clearly draws his strength from the aspirations to transform Iraq into a thriving democracy. President al-Yawr made clear that what is called TAL, transitional administrative law, the law of the land during this interim period, would govern their actions in the coming months, and the rights of all would be protected under this transitional administrative law. His immediate focus is to build those professional security forces to establish an independent judiciary that can uphold that rule of law.

As Iraqis rebuild their capacity to maintain security and govern themselves, the President said the world would see an Iraqi face on the war against terrorism in Iraq. Having met the Prime Minister in Baghdad a week and a half ago, and now the President of Iraq here in the Nation's Capital, the impact of having that Iraqi face, telling the Iraqi story, having it not told

just by Americans or by an occupying force, will make a huge difference on the world stage. It is for the Iraqi people, it is by the Iraqi people, and it is up to the Iraqi people at this point.

No nation wants to rely on another for its security. The President of Iraq expressed that. The Iraqi people want to stand on their own strength. But they need help through this transition period. He also made it clear that to rely upon a coalition while they are rebuilding their police and their army is not a surrender of their sovereignty in any way. Indeed, it is in Iraq's vital national security interests to accept the coalition's help, he stated.

Having now met with Iraq's two most senior leaders over the last 12 days, I am confident these two leaders and this new government is a strong one. They have the vision, they have the fortitude, they clearly have the courage, but they also have the resolve to lead the Iraqi people on this path toward freedom and democracy.

Indeed, Iraq's new leaders have the confidence of our friends in the region. Senator DASCHLE, Senator MCCONNELL, Senator BIDEN, and I all met with King Abdullah of Jordan this week in the Capitol. His Majesty expressed his confidence in and support of the new Iraqi government, as well. That is, again, a perspective from a very important, very significant leader in that part of the world.

It is important to praise President Bush and his team for their vision, for their resolve, and their efforts to get the United Nations and the international community behind this government. That has been a successful endeavor.

We are all concerned about the recent terrorist activity in Iraq. As I have mentioned in the Senate in the last couple of days, an increase in terrorist activity is anticipated. It is expected by the Iraqi leaders and by our civilian and military leaders because the terrorist groups—whether it is the Zarqawi network, whether it is the former regime loyalists, or whether it is the insurgents—will increase activity to derail this transition of sovereignty to the new government. They are not going to be successful. Yet we will see that increased terrorist activity. Indeed, we see the increased activity when we open the news each morning.

The terrorists want to disrupt this handoff. They are simply not going to be successful. They do not want to see the Iraqi people breathe that fresh air of freedom. They will not be successful. Indeed, we will win.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2400, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2400) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for military activities for the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Services, so forth and for other purposes.

Pending:

Bond modified amendment No. 3384, to include certain former nuclear weapons program workers in the Special Exposure Cohort under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program and to provide for the disposal of certain excess Department of Defense stocks for funds for that purpose.

Brownback amendment No. 3235, to increase the penalties for violations by television and radio broadcasters of the prohibitions against transmission of obscene, indecent, and profane language.

Burns amendment No. 3457 (to amendment No. 3235), to provide for additional factors in indecency penalties issued by the Federal Communications Commission.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of the two managers, I am reporting today that we will have two amendments by the Senator from Illinois that will be offered, two amendments by the Senator from New Jersey will be offered, an amendment by the Senator from Rhode Island will be offered, and I will offer an amendment. That is the schedule for today's session.

Of course, as the majority indicated, there will not be any votes. If the managers require votes, and these are not accepted, these votes will be stacked for Monday night in addition to amendments offered Monday that were announced at an earlier time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

AMENDMENT NO. 3196

Mr. DURBIN. I call up amendment No. 3196.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The pending amendment will be set aside.

The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Illinois [Mr. DURBIN], for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. CORZINE, and Mr. BIDEN, proposes an amendment numbered 3196.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To ensure that a Federal employee who takes leave without pay in order to perform service as a member of the uniformed services or member of the National Guard shall continue to receive pay in an amount which, when taken together with the pay and allowances such individual is receiving for such service, will be no less than the basic pay such individual would then be receiving if no interruption in employment had occurred)

At the appropriate place, insert the following: