The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN ENSIGN, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, giver of every good and perfect gift, great are Your works. We sing of Your strength, for You are the ruler of the universe. Your righteousness endures forever. Give us the wisdom to ask You for Your guidance and to follow Your counsel. Subdue freedom’s enemies and provide a shield for liberty.

Lord, thank You for America, with all of its freedoms and opportunities. May we always feel gratitude for this land.

Bless our Senators. Give them insights that will make justice roll down like waters. Help them to make laws that will maintain the rights of the afflicted and the destitute. Empower them to rescue the perishing and to care for the dying. Incline their hearts to labor that Your will may be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Honorable JOHN ENSIGN, a Senator from the State of Nevada, 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:

We are also continuing to negotiate agreements on some of the remaining appropriation bills. I hope we can agree to a consent to allow us to consider the spending bills with a reasonable time limitation. If so, we will be able to follow the Goss nomination with that. I suspect that will be tomorrow morning.

We have the expiring family-friendly tax items and we want to consider that legislation as soon as it becomes available. I understand that progress is being made. It will be important for us to vote on that this week. In the event that is Friday morning, that will have to be Friday morning, but I do want to encourage the conferees, who I think are very close to reporting out that legislation, so that the House of Representatives can consider it and we can consider it. We will be voting on that this week, either Friday or, if it is available, Thursday night. Obviously, I encourage the latter.

I remind my colleagues of the joint meeting tomorrow morning at 10 with Prime Minister Allawi of Iraq. He will be addressing both Houses on Thursday. Members should be in the Senate Chamber no later than 9:30 in order to proceed to that joint meeting.

NOMINATION OF PORTER GOSS TO BE CIA DIRECTOR
Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I will take a few minutes to comment on Representative PORTER GOSS’ nomination to the post of Director of the CIA, as well as to comment on the real progress the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee is making as we address the issues of the 9/11 recommendations.

With regard to the former, I congratulate the Senate Intelligence Committee. One of the reasons I do not think there will be as much debate on the floor today is that they very thoroughly addressed the nomination with
very good debate in committee and reported him out of that committee with an overwhelmingly positive vote.

Mr. Goss is a highly capable manager and leader, with a strong background and extensive experience in intelligence. Mr. Goss has served in Congress representing the people of southwest Florida for the past 15 years. He has a long history of public service, which I am sure will be outlined on the floor later. He served as mayor of Sanibel Island. In 1993, he was appointed to the Lee County Board of Commissioners by then Governor Bob Graham. Porter Goss has a long career that has, of course, extended these last 15 years as a House Member where he held the chairmanship of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

As chairman, he led one of the key investigations into possible intelligence failures regarding 9/11. He was thorough. He demonstrated a thoughtful and measured approach in these charged investigations. His committee's findings did add critical insights into how we can and should move forward to strengthen our defenses against terrorist attack.

Porter Goss has specific experience working for the Agency he is now nominated to run. During the Cold War, Mr. Goss was a clandestine services case officer. He served as director of operations. In his own words, the CIA's mission is "to obtain the plans and intentions of our enemies, adversaries and their associates before they could attack the United States."

Mr. Goss articulated so clearly and succinctly how this has occurred and will continue. As we all know, there is a sense of urgency that this body has a responsibility to reflect. If there is a better system, if there is a better way to guarantee the security and safety of Americans, and we know it is, and we do know it, then it is our responsibility to act and to do it thoughtfully and deliberately, and that is the process that the Democratic leader and I set up in which to address the two important issues.

Senator Susan Collins and Senator Joe Lieberman, who are managing the initial legislation through the Governmental Affairs Committee, have very carefully, and are very carefully, considering all the information. They have been deliberating for a long period of time, most acutely since the day the 9/11 Commission report and recommendations came out. They made great progress in marking up this legislation yesterday and will continue on that over the course of the day. That is exactly the task Senator Daschle and I set out for them in late July, to have the vehicle through which all the ideas, thoughts, and deliberations can be collected, understanding there are lots of very well-analyzed ideas. But it is an important vehicle, an important bill, and one we will be addressing on the floor of the Senate next week.

The committee's baseline legislation does create a national intelligence director. It does establish a national counterterrorism center, which has the responsibilities which have been well defined in the legislation. It does implement a whole range of initiatives to improve the quality and effectiveness of the intelligence community. It does fulfill the necessary recommendations, and the committee and then on the task force. I am hopeful we can continue to be both deliberate as well as expedient as we...