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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SAM BROWNBACK, a Senator from the State of Kansas.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Immortal, invisible God, thank You for the opportunity to share Your love and compassion with others. Guide us to those who need words of encouragement, and make us Your voice of hope in our world. Use us to bless others, and empower us with Your goodness and mercy.

Strengthen our Senators for today's work. Give them wise speech that will bring life and engender trust. Direct their steps on the roads they travel, and bring them safely to their desired destination. As they make decisions with potentially cataclysmic consequences, Lord, help them to count the cost.

Bless the many people who work with our leaders. Remind them often that their labors are not in vain.

Search our spirits and purify our motives. We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SAM BROWNBACK 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 13, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SAM BROWNBACK, a Senator from the State of Kansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BROWNBACK 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, today we will return to the pending business of the Homeland Security appropriations bill. We have six amendments that were called up yesterday and are currently pending. The two managers have been working on the sequencing of amendments. Therefore, we should have an additional lineup of amendments that are expected during today's session.

As we stated at closing last night, we have two Senate delegations today, one attending the funeral of former Senator Gaylord Nelson and another delegation in Florida. It is lining up in such a way that we will have very productive debate over the course of the day, but we will be voting later this evening. I do not know exactly what time that will be. We will have the exact timing of these votes announced later today as we look at the appropriate schedules. I doubt that there will be voting before 7:45 or so tonight. We will be voting tonight.

I have said on many occasions that we will be finishing homeland security legislation before we leave this week. I

believe we have a good shot at completing that bill tomorrow night. I don't know what time that will be. We will go to another bill on Friday. That bill will be determined over the course of today.

The funding legislation we are currently addressing in the Senate is too important to not complete this week. We will be using debate time throughout the course of the day. We will have the votes this evening. We will have a very busy session tomorrow.

I also wish to take the opportunity to remind my colleagues we will have an all-Senate briefing this afternoon, for those who are interested, from 3 to 4 o'clock by Director Negroonte. I believe Secretary Chertoff will also be coming by as well.

SUPREME COURT CONFIRMATION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I have some brief remarks about confirmation of a new Supreme Court Justice.

As we all have witnessed, the process is off to a great start. Consultation is well underway between the President of the United States and the Senate. It is ongoing. The President and his staff are reaching out to Senators from both parties to listen to their suggestions, both in person and through phone calls. To date, the administration, the President and his staff, have contacted directly more than 60 Senators, more than two-thirds of the Democratic caucus, every member of the Judiciary Committee. The President's approach has been bipartisan and open and unprecedented in scope. I commend him for that effort.

As we look ahead, I encourage each Senator to reflect upon the nominee we will consider and the confirmation process we will undertake. As Senators, confirming a nominee to the Supreme Court is one of our highest constitutional duties. The new Justice, whomever the President chooses, will influence American law for years and

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



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