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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.

Eternal Lord God, ruler of our nature, hallowed be Your Name. Today, we pray for those in the forefront of world events: for Government leaders, as well as all those whose words and insights influence the course of human history. Give them the courage not to tolerate injustice or resort to violence as a first option. Remind them that You bless peacemakers and call them Your children.

Guide our Senators as they use the immense resources of this land to bring relief to the oppressed. Make them good stewards of your manifold grace and may their lives magnify Your name. Today, use them to establish peace and justice in our land.

We pray in Your sacred 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we return to session for the consid-

eration of the port security bill. Last night we were able to complete work on the Defense appropriations bill, with a final vote of 98 to 0 on passage.

Following that vote, we began consideration of port security, with opening statements which began last night and continue this morning.

I stated last night that we will not be voting on amendments today, but we do anticipate Members will come forward and offer and debate amendments over the course of business today and Monday. The two leaders will then work with the managers and begin stacked votes on those pending amendments for Tuesday morning.

Having said that, I ask Senators to make themselves available today and Monday to debate their amendments.

I again remind my colleagues of the joint leadership event on Monday which will observe the fifth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on September 11. We will have a brief ceremony beginning at 6 p.m. on Monday on the east front of the Capitol. All Senators are invited to participate.

Mr. President, I turn to my colleague from Missouri. I have a short statement on port security, but I know the Senator has other scheduling issues today. I will defer to him and then make my statement on port security following his remarks.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

ANNIVERSARY OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Mr. BOND. I thank the Chair, I thank the majority leader.

Mr. President, 5 years ago Monday, we witnessed the murder of 3,000 Americans in the largest terrorist attack on American soil in the Nation's history.

September 11 was a day of loss but also a day of lessons. On September 11, 2001, the American people learned there exists a group of killers, fueled by a twisted version of Islam, who want to

destroy America. But we also witnessed how a group of passengers in one hijacked plane, United flight 93, banded together, fought back, and saved countless lives in a simple, selfless act of heroism.

Today, we continue to fight the same group of killers not on an airplane over America but in a country in their own neighborhood, Iraq, and elsewhere in the Middle East and around the world.

It is the same enemy, the same determination, the same goal. But today we are fighting the radical Islamists on their own turf because we have a President who knows if America doesn't fight back, another September 11 is inevitable.

Although the central front on the war in terror is Iraq, we have taken the fight to every corner of the globe. We have improved our intelligence capabilities. We have programs in place to help watch what the bad guys are doing, gather intelligence and disrupt their plans.

We have made progress. We passed the PATRIOT Act, developed effective terrorist surveillance programs, created the Department of Homeland Security, established the Director of National Intelligence, and tore down the wall built by previous administrations which blocked critical communications between agencies.

That work has paid off. There has been no attack in the United States since September 11. Afghanistan and Iraq are now free. They have held elections. They are taking control of their own security forces.

Yet while the threat level remains high, some in this country, and regrettably in this Senate, want to let our guard down. Some talk of giving up the fight in Iraq. Let's not talk of "troop redeployment" and other such euphemisms. If America pulls out of Iraq now, it signals to our enemies we have given up.

On that day, the United States and the world will embark on a future of

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



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