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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHNNY ISAKSON, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Our God and Father, in whom we find life everlasting, we praise You as the one and only God who brings order out of chaos. In our tumultuous world, You alone are changeless.

Guide our Senators today. Work within them that they may choose to make You the fixed star of their hope. Empower them with unwavering faith to manage the unfolding challenges of our times. Forgive them for duties unattended, obligations unmet, and responsibilities ignored. Impart to them discernment to do their best and to find their highest joy in pleasing You.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHNNY ISAKSON 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, September 14, 2006.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHNNY ISAKSON, a

Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. ISAKSON 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, following a brief period of morning business, we will resume consideration of the port security bill, with an hour of debate equally divided, followed by a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the bill. That cloture vote should occur at approximately 11 this morning, and that will be the first vote of today's session. I anticipate that cloture will be invoked, and I encourage all Senators to vote in favor of cloture. The bill managers have been diligently working through the amendments and working through the bill. If we invoke cloture, we expect to complete the bill at a reasonable time today. I encourage all of our colleagues to help the managers so we can finish that bill sometime in the late afternoon today. It means not doing our usual thing of trying to talk and spend a lot of time and then voting later into the night. We really do want to finish this late this afternoon. Senators are reminded that rollcall votes are likely throughout the day and that the filing deadline for second-degree amendments is 10 a.m. this morning.

### SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, for this month's session of 4 weeks on the floor of the Senate prior to our recess for the

elections, we have focused and will continue to focus on the safety and security of the American people.

There are a lot of issues that need to be dealt with that we are dealing with in committees and in conference, but the focus on the floor very much is the safety and security of families listening right now, and to our colleagues and their families. We know, having seen what had come close to happening with the events in Great Britain in terms of the terrorist attacks and the plot there that was foiled, we are at risk in this country. Therefore, it is our obligation to address these issues and to do it in a way where we know we are equipped to both obtain information that can undercut these plots and foil the terrorists in whatever activity they are dreaming up.

In addition, we have a challenge that is being addressed in committee today, was addressed in committee in the House yesterday, in terms of the terrorist tribunals and military commissions. It needs to be understood by my colleagues and the American people that the detainees we have today—the enemy combatants, people who have wished us harm, people who planned the 9/11 attack—until we act in Congress, in this Senate, they simply cannot be tried. They cannot be brought to justice. That is where we are today. That is why there is so much appropriate focus on making sure our Government, our military personnel, our intelligence officers have the tools they need to keep us safe.

So those two issues, the surveillance issue and the military commissions and tribunals, are issues we are addressing, again, in committee. The President has placed a bill before this body. I introduced it about a week and a half ago. That language is available, and I encourage my colleagues to study that.

Mr. President, that brings me to the issues of security that I mentioned in terms of surveillance, the detainees

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



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