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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, empower our Senators to make consistency a top priority. Lead them over life's mountains and through life's valleys with a spirit of faithfulness and trust in You and a kindness and respect for each other. Help them to live their lives on an even keel and to never give in to despair. Whether in life's sunshine or shadows, may they be aware that You will walk beside them, making the crooked places straight. Keep them from making critical decisions without consulting You or succumbing to the temptation of taking the easy way out. Infuse them with a spirit of gratitude to You for Your involvement in the destiny of our Nation and world.

Lord, help us all to live lives worthy of Your love. We pray in Your wonderful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., 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. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, March 1, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT P. CASEY, Jr., a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. CASEY 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. REID. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 60 minutes, the first half under the control of the Republicans, the second half under the control of the majority. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 4. I announced last night that there would be a Democrat ready to offer an amendment. I am told this morning that individual called and said they are not ready now. We have a Bingaman amendment pending, and I understand there may be a second degree filed to that. If that is the case, I hope they will do that. I know Senator SCHUMER will be available to offer an amendment after lunch, 1 p.m. or thereabouts.

I say this to my distinguished Republican colleague, Senator McCONNELL: I don't think it is fair to everybody to have such a schedule that is kind of up in the air. I think tomorrow we are going to finish around noon. Nobody seems to be anxious to offer amendments. It is unfair to everybody else to be kind of standing around waiting for something to happen. We will stay in session tomorrow after that, if nec-

essary, for people to offer amendments. As I indicated, we can have some stacked votes when we come in Monday evening.

The Republican leader and I have spoken. I don't want to have to file cloture on this bill, but Democrats and Republicans should understand that we can't stand around and think we are going to legislate the last few hours of next week. We cannot do that.

I say to people on my side of the aisle and those on the other side of the aisle, if they have amendments, offer them. I appreciate the amendments that have been offered in relation to this legislation. This is important legislation. There are still some controversial things that have to be decided. Waiting around is not going to do the trick. It is my understanding the Republican manager of the bill has been working with the administration on REAL ID. According to news reports this morning, the administration is going to offer some relief, and the managers of the bill and those who are concerned about REAL ID will have to decide if that is enough.

I simply say that I wanted to have a lot done today, a lot done tomorrow, but I don't think it is fair to everybody when there doesn't appear to be a lot of interest. We on our side have hotlined Members to find out who has amendments to offer. There are a few amendments Senators have requested to put in line for offering themselves. We are certainly able to do that. But that line has to start someplace.

We are going to finish this bill next week.

Mr. McCONNELL. Will the majority leader yield for an observation on that point?

Mr. REID. I am happy to yield.

Mr. McCONNELL. I think it is a problem on both sides of the aisle. I agree with the majority leader, we need to get going. I will give an example, what happened yesterday. Senator DEMINT came down shortly after noon

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



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