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Senate

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, send Your peace into our world. Hasten the day when nations will live in friendship with each other, united by their allegiance to You.

May the Members of this body build with You a world without dividing walls and partisan strife. Empower our Senators to set country above party and place Your will above all else. Keep them faithful in their efforts to unite our world. Strengthen them to work together for the common good as You place Your peace that passes all understanding in their hearts. Bless them abundantly beyond all that they can imagine.

We pray in the Name of the Prince of Peace. 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 bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 29, 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, we will immediately resume consideration of H.R. 1591, the supplemental appropriations bill, and begin the process of voting on amendments which remain in order. There are only five amendments which remain in order to the bill. I encourage all Members to remain in the Chamber for these votes so committees and other meetings that are taking place throughout the Capitol can go forward on schedule.

There is a lot of business to be conducted today. I extend my appreciation to all Senators, especially Senator McCONNELL, for helping us work through the morass we had yesterday. It was very difficult, but we worked through it, and I think it will allow us to get the bill to the President more quickly.

We all acknowledge that the bill is imperfect. That is what conferences are all about. Let's see what we can do to improve it in conference.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. McCONNELL. Parliamentary inquiry: Are the subsequent votes after the first one 10-minute votes?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. That has not been established.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all votes after the first vote in the stack which is coming up be 10-minute votes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, let me add while my friend the majority leader is here that I hope he joins my view that having finished this supplemental appropriations bill today, we hope the staffs of the two Appropriations Committees in the House and Senate will work expeditiously to finish the conference so it can be approved, hopefully, on the first day we are back, after the House comes back, and we can get it down to the President for the inevitable veto so we can get through this process again and get the much needed money to the troops.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to my distinguished friend, we hope we can have the conference start tomorrow. Tomorrow is Friday, and the fact that we will be out of session a week and the House 2 weeks does not mean Members of Congress cannot be here working on this bill. We all acknowledge, in the first several days—this is a big bill, and staff will do a lot of work, as it has always done. The managers of the bill, both in the House and Senate, majority and minority, will be heavily involved in this conference, and other members of the subcommittees—the chairs and ranking members—as necessary will be involved.

This is an important piece of legislation. No matter the time of year we do these supplemental appropriations bills, they are important. It is an emergency. That is why we are here. While people may not agree as to what is in

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



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