The Senate met at 2:45 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable Jim Webb, a Senator from the State of Virginia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Today, Lord, we come to You offering our gratitude. Thank You for the light of day and the dark of night, for the hills and the sea, for the open roads and the wind on our faces. Thank You for Your gifts.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable Jim Webb 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).

Mr. WEBB thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 4:15, with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each. At 4:15 the Senate will begin consideration of the FDA authorization. The chairman and ranking member, Senators Kennedy and Enzi, have worked very hard to get the bill here. They did great work over the weekend.

Two very important issues that would have made this bill much more complex, it appears, have been worked out. I hope that is the case. One deals with drug reimportation; the other deals with biomedicine. We think they have worked that out. Time will tell.

There will be no rollcall votes today. There will be a vote probably prior to the recess tomorrow. If we don’t have something on the FDA bill, we have a Federal district court judge we need to vote on and we can get that out of the way.

The FDA legislation is extremely important. It appears we have the opportunity to do some bipartisan work in that regard.