Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable Mark L. Pryor, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray:

Almighty God, smile on us and lift us with Your mighty strength. Develop in us an optimism that will withstand all challenges, bear all burdens, and catapult all obstacles.

Guide the Members of this body, today, on Your path. Show them Your ways as You lead them by the power of Your truth. Help them to set priorities that will deliver captives and relieve the oppressed, causing "justice to roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream." Direct our Senators with their going out and coming in, inspiring them with a resolute determination to fulfill Your purposes on Earth. We pray in Your reverent Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable Mark L. Pryor 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:


To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable Mark L. Pryor, a Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

Robert C. Byrd,
President pro tempore.

Mr. Pryor 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, shortly the Chair will announce that we are in morning business until 3 p.m. today, with the time equally divided between the two leaders.

At 3 p.m., the Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act. Senators Boxer and Inhofe are managing the bill, and they will be here at 3 o’clock ready to conduct business. There will be no rollcall votes today.

If there are no amendments on Tuesday, the water resources bill would be ready for a vote. If there are no votes on WRDA tomorrow and they are able to complete work on the bill, then we will have the judicial nomination before the caucuses in the morning.

Also, I have had discussions with the Republican leader. We finished a conversation a short time ago. I indicated last Friday I would delay filing cloture on the motion to proceed to the immigration bill until today so that negotiations could continue. That cloture vote will occur now on Wednesday.

The Republican leader and I will continue our discussions about the best way to proceed with the supplemental. The bill is expected to be received from the House today and will be placed on the Senate calendar when it arrives. The Senate must complete action on the supplemental this week so it can be conferenced with the House and sent to the President prior to the scheduled Memorial Day recess. It will occur. That is, the conference will be completed or we will delay our recess.

In addition, the Senate can expect to receive a conference vote on the budget sometime later this week. We need to act on that also. Under the Budget Act, debate time is limited to 10 hours.

So a busy week lies ahead for us in the Senate. We have one week after this before the Memorial Day break.

HONORING 2007 NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. Reid. Mr. President, this weekend I had the good fortune of having my brother in town. My brother Don is the oldest of four boys. He is 12 years older than I. He served in the Marine Corps, and during the Korean War he served in the Army. It was a wonderful time we had yesterday. Among other things, we went to Arlington National Cemetery. He wanted to go there.

I have been here a long time. I went to law school here, and I now have been in Congress for about 25 years. You don’t often take the opportunity—because you are busy doing other things—to visit the wonderful attractions there in the District of Columbia area.

Arlington Cemetery is a place that every Member of Congress should go once in a while. It is amazing to see all those graves. I went, as I have on a number of occasions, to President Kennedy’s grave site. We saw the eternal flame. He is there with his two babies and his wonderful wife.

We watched the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. We visited the Iwo Jima memorial—it is called the Marine Corps Memorial. Iwo Jima is mentioned there. I have been reading a lot about that lately. There are some books, such as Flags of Our Fathers—I don’t want to hurt Clint Eastwood’s feelings, but...