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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, September 14, 2007, at 10 a.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2007

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, Your presence fills us with gratitude. Thank You for life's mountains and valleys, for the seasons of joy, and for the challenges that demand our best efforts.

Today, as many prepare to celebrate Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish new year, draw near to our lawmakers and strengthen them. Give them more than human wisdom to act wisely as they face national and global challenges. Infuse them with humility, civility, patience, love, unity, and peace. Help them to save time by taking time to seek You in silence and meditation. Remind them that quietness in Your presence leads to righteousness, justice, and peace.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN 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, September 12, 2007.

To the Senate:

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

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

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

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, fortunately, this morning, we are going to conclude action on this Transportation appropriations bill, which is so vitally important to this country.

Through the hard work last night of the managers, Senators MURRAY and BOND, the last remaining amendments will be disposed of this morning. Those are an amendment by Senator DEMINT, amendments by Senator COBURN, and then final passage. There is a period of 20 minutes of debate with respect to the DeMint amendment and then a rollcall vote following the DeMint amendment, if the participants so desire, and then there will be 2 minutes of debate on the Coburn amendments. So Members should be prepared to vote around 9:25. There will be three rollcall

votes—DeMint, Coburn, and then final passage. They will be the only votes today.

When Members return next week, there will be no rollcall votes on Monday, September 17, as I had previously announced a long time ago. But on Tuesday, we may have votes in the morning. I haven't worked that out yet with the distinguished Republican leader. We do have some things we have to try to dispose of prior to moving to the Defense authorization bill.

Maybe today, if not on Monday next, we will have a consent agreement regarding how we are going to move forward on the Iraq amendments and the Defense authorization bill. So next week will be an action-packed week. We have the Jewish holiday—we have Yom Kippur—which will begin next Friday, 9 days from now, at sundown. That being the case, we will have no votes after 1 o'clock on Friday next.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

DEPARTMENTS OF TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3074, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

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



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