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Senate

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 PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rev. Chuck Lawrence, Christ Temple Church, Huntington, WV.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

King of Glory, first of all, we are thankful that we can pray and that You hear us. We are thankful that You have the power, and also the desire, to answer us.

As our Creator, You know what is best for us. So, Lord, even more than Your blessings and what You can give to us, we desire Your presence. We want Your presence to be woven into the very fabric of our lives because Your presence brings purpose to our lives. Without You, we are empty, void of meaning.

Your presence also brings joy to life, not just one arduous task after another but a joyful journey. Your presence will guide us to proper finish lines, to accomplishments that really matter. Your presence brings freedom as well; not just freedom from something but freedom to make the right decisions that will help us fulfill the destiny into which we are called. Your presence brings peace; not a peace from agreeable circumstances but a peace even in the midst of tumultuous moments.

So, today, let every Senator sense Your presence. Let every Senator know that Your hand is available to guide them in all they do. Let us all remember that just having You is enough, and we will continue to pursue Your presence until the day we hear: "Well done, good and faithful servant." In Your Name, we pray. 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 27, 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1585, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1585) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2008 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Nelson (NE) (for Levin) amendment No. 2011, in the nature of a substitute.

Warner (for Graham-Kyl) amendment No. 2064 (to amendment No. 2011), to strike section 1023, relating to the granting of civil rights to terror suspects.

Reid (for Kennedy-Smith) amendment No. 3035 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 2064), to provide Federal assistance to States, local jurisdictions, and Indian tribes to prosecute hate crimes.

Motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Armed Services, with instructions to report back forthwith, with Reid amendment No. 3038, to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 3039 (to the instructions of the motion to recommit), of a technical nature.

Reid amendment No. 3040 (to amendment No. 3039), of a technical nature.

Casey (for Hatch) amendment No. 3047 (to amendment No. 2011), to require comprehensive study and support for criminal investigations and prosecutions by State and local law enforcement officials.

Coburn amendment No. 2196 (to amendment No. 2011), to eliminate wasteful spending and improve the management of counter-drug intelligence.

McCaskill (for Webb) modified amendment No. 2999 (to amendment No. 2011), to provide for the study and investigation of wartime contracts and contracting processes in Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be 2 hours of debate equally divided between the two leaders prior to the cloture vote on amendment No. 3035 offered by the Senator from Massachusetts, Mr. KENNEDY.

The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, briefly, let me outline the schedule for this morning. Under an order entered last night, there are 2 hours of debate equally divided prior to votes on pending cloture motions on the two hate crimes amendments.

Once the votes begin, around 11 this morning, there will be very brief debate between the votes, so Members

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



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