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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, for Your marvelous grace that enables us to live victoriously, we thank You. Thank You for strength during life's monotony and emergencies. Help us to express our gratitude by promoting Your work in our world.

Lord, guide our lawmakers with Your higher wisdom. Empower them to walk the path that surrenders to Your will. Replace their fear with faith, their confusion with clarity, and their error with truth. Let love prevail over hate, justice triumph over greed, and harmony defeat discord. Make them willing to listen both to You and to each other. O God, give them tough faith for troubled times.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON TESTER 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 assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 16, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. TESTER 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

Mr. REID. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are going to be in a period of morning business for an hour. The time will be equally divided and controlled. The Republicans have the first half. We have the second half. Following morning business, Senators MIKULSKI and SHELBY, as managers of the bill, will resume consideration of H.R. 3093, the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Act.

Last night, I indicated we would work and complete this bill, either tonight or in the morning—and by “in the morning,” I mean after midnight. We are going to work until we complete this bill, if, in fact, it is ever going to be completed. I am not filing cloture on the legislation. We have a finite number of amendments, and we are going to work through these amendments.

As I indicated last night, we have had good cooperation from the minority on our appropriations bills, and I hope that continues. I am confident it will. But if anyone who is mischievous

thinks they will stop us from voting tonight, we will have votes. I do not need to be voting on these matters of this bill. If people think they can stop us from voting, we will have votes. Even if we have to instruct the Sergeant at Arms or do whatever is necessary, we are going to have votes tonight, unless this bill moves forward more quickly than some have said.

We need to complete this legislation. We have things that are so very important. The President yesterday said he wants appropriations bills. We cannot do the appropriations bills unless we have cooperation from Democrats and Republicans. Right now, we have 29 amendments that are here that Republicans want to deal with. There are eight Democratic amendments. We want to get this bill done. We need to do Labor-HHS, and, hopefully, by that time we can have something ready to send to the President—any one of the six bills we would have passed. I think it is important we get this process done. The President said he wants to veto a bill. We will send him one he wants to veto if, in fact, that is what he wants to do. Hopefully, that may not be the case. But if it is, that is where we have to start with him. So there are going to be votes. There probably will be votes before our 12:30 mandated recess time.

There are other items we need to work on. For example, one reason we need to finish this bill and the Labor-HHS bill is the manager of the farm bill is HARKIN from Iowa, and we have to have him free so he can do the markup of the farm bill next week—a very important piece of legislation. In the Democratic caucus—I do not know of the Republican caucus—more than half of the Democrats are vitally interested in the farm bill because it affects their States. We have to do a farm bill. We have not done one in 5 years. I think it would be negligent on our part to leave here without doing a farm bill.

There are many important issues. There are people who want to change

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



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