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## Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 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 Lord our God, how great You are. You are robed with honor and majesty. Today, lead our lawmakers in their work. May they be messengers of unity and hope in a world of derision and despair. Make them productive servants who live lives that honor You. Remind them to act with justice, to love mercy, and to walk with humility. May they speak Your words that lead to life and find a firm footing by living with integrity. Because You are merciful, guide them away from crooked roads where they might slip and fall. Sovereign Lord, strengthen our Senators to seize opportunities that bring peace, hope, and freedom.

We pray in Your wise 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 assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, November 7, 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.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senate will recess shortly for a joint meeting to hear an address from the President of France, Nicolas Sarkozy.

### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

I ask unanimous consent that the recess order be changed—it now has us reconvening at 12:15 p.m.—to subject to the call of the Chair. That way, if it doesn't work out exactly at 12:15 p.m., no one will be disadvantaged.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, when we reconvene, we will go right to work on the Labor-HHS-VA appropriations conference report under the parameters of the agreement entered last night. In addition, the Senate also may consider the WRDA conference report after disposition of the Labor-HHS conference report. Members can expect rollover votes during the day. We will also, of course, be on the farm bill, interspersed through all the other work we are doing. Hopefully, at the end of the day, we can work something out.

I had a conversation with the distinguished Republican leader last night. There may be something we can work out on the amendments. I note for the record, as I explained to my Republican counterpart last night, there was conversation on the floor yesterday that

the last time the farm bill came up, Senator Daschle was the leader. At that time, there were 16 or 19 amendments, but they were all relevant amendments, with the exception of one from Senator KYL of Arizona which was a sense-of-the-Senate amendment dealing with the estate tax. Other than that, they were all relevant to the farm bill. That is the way it has been. We went back and checked, and that is the way it has been for very many farm bills. That is what we should do on this farm bill, as I have suggested. But we can work something out with the minority and come up with a list of amendments. I will be happy to do that if that is something which will make them happy.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The leadership time is reserved.

### JOINT MEETING OF THE TWO HOUSES—ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF FRANCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess subject to the call of the Chair, as indicated in the previous unanimous consent agreement.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 10:35 a.m., recessed, subject to the call of the Chair, and the Senate, preceded by the Secretary of the Senate, Nancy Erickson, and the Deputy Sergeant at Arms, Drew Willison, proceeded to the Hall of the House of Representatives to hear the address of the President of the Republic of France, Nicolas Sarkozy.

(The address delivered by the President of the Republic of France to a joint meeting of the two Houses of Congress is printed in the Proceedings of the House of Representatives in today's RECORD.)

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



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