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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rev. J. Wayne Pratt from the Wooddale & Paradise Valley Charge, Scotrun, PA.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

God, by whatever name we choose to call You, we thank You for this day and all its welcome opportunities to serve You in the conduct of this great Nation. We thank You for this assembled body of dedicated men and women in their quest for peace, justice, equality, and freedom for all.

You rejoice delightedly in our good intentions and honest deliberations and forgive us freely when we fail to see the common good or lose focus in our labors. We pray that You will continue to guide and direct our work, that it may bring glory to You and perhaps be a model for others to follow.

Send Your gracious blessing upon these Senators and all our leaders at every level. Share with them and with us Your gifts of diligence, integrity, and concern for the welfare of others so that injustice, divisiveness, and thoughtless or selfish acts may be vanquished. Help us to create a sense of peace and harmony that will prevail throughout this Nation and beyond its borders.

In all things, O God, we give You thanks. 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 28, 2008.

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, following my remarks and those of Senator MCCONNELL, there will be a period of morning business for up to 1 hour, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the final half.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 2634, a bill to require a report setting forth the global strategy of the United States to combat and defeat al-Qaida and its affiliates.

Mr. President, procedurally, we are in a situation where we have asked to be able to legislate on a piece of legislation dealing with the President and those in his Cabinet sending to us reports on what is happening in the global war on terror. What has happened is

what has happened now for more than a year, where the minority is not allowing us to go to that legislation.

We have a situation where we want to move to a piece of legislation. Procedurally, there has been in the Senate for many decades a provision that if we want to move to a piece of legislation and someone objects, the only thing we can do is file cloture on it. We did that. Cloture has been invoked. But now we are leading up to 30 hours. We had 30 hours on the original matter calling for a timeline for changing the course of the war in Iraq, and that was 30 hours we used. Now we are going to do it on this legislation.

It is really too bad we are wasting time rather than getting to the legislation, but that is the way it is. And we, as a very slim majority, have come to accept that.

IRAQ

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is another day in Iraq and another \$400 million. One only need look at the Washington Post, as I did yesterday, to see what is happening in Iraq. Front page: "Sunni Forces Losing Patience With U.S." And it goes on to say how hundreds and hundreds of these Sunnis, who were helping us, have gone home.

Now, Mr. President, the Sunnis, even before Saddam Hussein, controlled Iraq. They are a minority, but they have controlled Iraq for generations. Now the Shias control Iraq, and the Sunnis, as we all know, are trying to make a comeback. This should cause everyone some concern.

Also, if you look a little bit further in the newspaper, go over to page 12, you will see another story dealing with Iraq. "Iraq Leaders Veto Law on Elections." We have been trying, and in fact it was the purpose of the surge, to bring about some ability in the Iraqis to take over the Government themselves, and they passed 4 pieces of legislation of the 18 that they were supposed to pass. Everyone said at the

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



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