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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.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by Rev. Ralph Lord Roy of Southington, CT.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, creator of this magnificent universe and fount of all wisdom, we offer our thanks for life and liberty and for those many benefits that we too often take for granted. Bless our beloved Nation that as one people of many colors and creeds, we may dwell together in mutual respect and harmony. Be with fellow Americans in distant places and especially men and women serving our country overseas. Bless those around the world who hunger and thirst, the sick and sorrowful, and victims of natural disasters, of prejudice and oppression.

Guide this Senate, O Lord. Grant that its Members and those who assist them may be filled with prudence and foresight as they confront the complex challenges of our time. Bless all others in high office, and let the light of freedom and the lamp of justice shine brightly here and around the globe. Grant peace to our lives, to our homes, to our communities, to our Nation, and to humankind everywhere.

We ask this in Your Name. 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 assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 19, 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, I will yield in a brief minute to the distinguished Senator from Connecticut so he can say some words about the guest Chaplain and his thoughtful prayer this morning.

Following leader remarks—and it does not appear there will be any—the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 6049, the Renewable Energy and Job Creation Act, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, but we expect to begin legislating on the housing legislation today.

Mr. President, what I would like to do is yield to the Senator from Connecticut so he can say some words about our distinguished visiting guest Chaplain.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Connecticut.

THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, it is truly a privilege and pleasure this morning to welcome to the Senate a remarkable individual who opened the Senate with a prayer this morning. He has lived an equally remarkable life and today resides in the community of Southington, CT.

In the 80 years we have enjoyed the fortune of having the Reverend Ralph Lord Roy in our midst, he has been an author and columnist, an activist, a teacher, and a radio host, and, of course, a pastor to some 12 different churches and ministries in New York and for some 36 years in Connecticut. At each stop along the way, he has spread the same message: one of justice and tolerance in the face of fear, resentment, anger, and prejudice.

In 1961, as part of the Congress of Racial Equality, Reverend Roy was one of the fabled "Freedom Fighters" who traveled to protest segregation policies in the South, for which he was arrested in Tallahassee.

A year later, he led a prayer pilgrimage to Albany, GA, at Martin Luther King's personal request. For his peaceful protests there, praying for the cause of desegregation, Reverend Roy was also arrested. In leading the largest group of clergy to be arrested in American history in Albany, GA, Reverend Roy became the first Caucasian Methodist minister in our Nation to be imprisoned for standing up for the civil rights of all Americans. The message he and his fellow clergy men and women sent at that moment—some 75 Jewish and Catholic laymen and clerics, most of them White, standing peacefully in solidarity with Dr. Martin Luther King on the sidewalk before the Albany City Hall—reverberates to this very day. It echoes in the books and articles that Reverend Roy has penned on social and faith issues and in his powerful and personal accounts of his experiences with the slain civil rights leader. It echoes as well in his

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



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