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## Senate

(Legislative day of Wednesday, September 17, 2008)

The Senate met at 3 p.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, sovereign Lord of the universe, limitless, timeless, in whom resides all wisdom and power, remind our Senators today that they have nothing to fear about the future when they remember how You have led us in the past. Energize their memories to remember the dangers, toils, and snares over which You have brought our Nation and world so that Your peace will guard their hearts. Lord, may they never forget that the galaxies belong to You and the fullness thereof, the world, and they who dwell therein. Teach them the wisdom of seeking You so that they will fulfill Your purposes for their lives.

We pray in the Name of Him who is the author and finisher of our faith. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB 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 22, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from the following, and the Senate proceed to their consideration, en bloc: PN2053, Senator BILL NELSON, to be a Representative of the United States to the 63rd Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and PN2054, Senator BOB CORKER of Tennessee, to be a Representative of the United States to the 63rd Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations; that the nominations be confirmed and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no other motion be in order; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

#### UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

BILL NELSON, of Florida, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-third Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

BOB CORKER, of Tennessee, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-third Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. As previously announced, there will be no rollcall votes today.

Last week, we were able to reach an agreement to consider H.R. 6049, the tax extenders legislation. Following morning business tomorrow, the Senate will consider three amendments to the bill, with limited debate and votes in relation to the amendments. Senators should expect the first amendment vote to occur prior to the caucus lunches and the remaining votes in the afternoon. One of the things to consider now is maybe not having morning business tomorrow to move this along more rapidly.

The Republican leader is seeking recognition, and when he finishes, I will give a few remarks.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

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



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