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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, March 2, 2009, at 12:30 p.m.

## Senate

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2009

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O Lord our God, great and eternal, you keep Your promises to those who serve You. Consecrate this day with Your presence the way our feet should go. Kindle in the hearts of our Senators a true love of You and guide them with Your wisdom. May the faith they confess with their lips put such courage and hope in their hearts that they may live each day in the spirit of Your love. Cleanse them, Lord, from every thought displeasing to Your goodness, that with pure hearts, clear minds, and calm hope they may honor You. Help them to remember that nothing can separate them from Your love.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable HARRY REID 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, February 27, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFF MERKLEY, a Senator from the State of Oregon, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,

President pro tempore.

Mr. MERKLEY 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 leader remarks, if any, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

We are going to move to the omnibus spending bill, which is a bill to fund the Government until October 1. The committees of jurisdiction in the House and the Senate, the Appropriations Committees, have worked very hard to come up with bipartisan legislation. No one can ever suggest there was not participation by Democrats and Republicans on this legislation. We hope to be able to move to that Monday. We are going to move to it Monday. We hope to do it without having to have a cloture vote. If we cannot get consent to move to the matter within the next few hours, we will file cloture

on the motion to proceed to that bill. That will occur early in the morning on Monday. We have to do that so that we can have the 30 hours run as quickly as we can. We have to finish the bill next week because the funding runs out on March 6. So we hope that can be accomplished. If we can move to the bill, then we would leave Monday for the opportunity for people to speak about the legislation.

The bill would be managed, of course, by Senators INOUE and COCHRAN, two of the most experienced legislators we have. Monday would give us an opportunity for people to offer amendments, and we would be able to have those votes prior to the regular caucus luncheon on Tuesday. So we will await as to what happens during the day to determine what is going to happen on Monday. We could have a Monday morning cloture vote if we cannot get permission to move to that. If we do get permission, then we will have no votes on Monday and have that for debate and offering amendments, no votes.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar Nos. 19, 20, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force and Navy; that the nominations

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



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