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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Infinite Spirit, generous giver of life's joys, from Your vantage point of eternity look afresh into our time. Teach us to serve You as we should. Forgive us for our waste of time and opportunity. Forgive us, also, when we fail to see Your glorious image in humanity or the opportunities to please You by empowering those on life's margins. Thank You for showing us that in setting the captives free we do Heaven's work on Earth. Remind us that it is in giving that we receive, and through dying to self that we are born to eternal life.

Today, use Your Senators as servants of Your kingdom. Help each of us to be honest with ourselves and with one another. We pray this in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore 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.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

### SCHEDULE

Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will conduct a period of morning business until 10:30 a.m., with the first half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee and the second

half allotted to the majority leader or his designee.

At 10:30, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1637, the FSC/ETI bill. When the Senate resumes the bill, the Dodd amendment on outsourcing will be the pending business. A number of Senators have expressed an interest in speaking on the amendment, and it is the leader's expectation that a second-degree amendment will be offered to the Dodd amendment this morning.

For the remainder of the day, we will continue to work through amendments to the bill. Under the previous order, following the disposition of the Dodd amendment, the Senate will take up an amendment by Senator BUNNING which would accelerate manufacturing-sector tax cuts. Rollcall votes are possible during today's session, and Senators will be notified when the first vote is scheduled.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

### CHALLENGES FACING THE UNITED STATES IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, later this week, President Bush will host Mexican President Vicente Fox for 2 days of meetings in Texas.

Three years ago, in the months after President Fox's historic election ended seven decades of one-party rule, we were all very hopeful that the United States and Mexico were prepared to move beyond decades of mistrust and miscommunication.

In the aftermath of 9/11, the Bush administration chose to relegate improved relations with our neighbor to the bottom of its priority list, unfortunately.

The meeting this week represents a long overdue but welcome step toward

regaining the lost momentum in United States-Mexico relations.

I hope the President will use the renewed public focus on Mexico this week not just for a photo opportunity but also to revive the administration's efforts to address many of the pressing challenges throughout this hemisphere.

The need for such a revival is clear. Early last month Secretary Powell told a House committee that the United States "had higher priorities" than Latin America. The fact that the United States has important priorities in the rest of the world is indisputable.

Hundreds of thousands of our young men and women are deployed throughout the Middle East. North Korea is adding to its nuclear capability, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction presents us with a chilling specter that terrorist groups could get their hands on the world's worst weapons.

But the sad truth is that we do not have the luxury of worrying only about the crises of the day. If we fail to attend to emerging threats today, they will quickly become tomorrow's crises. Rather than relying on diplomatic means, we will be forced into a situation so dire that only the deployment of U.S. troops—already stretched far too thinly—can stabilize the situation. For an example of this phenomenon, we need look no further than recent events in our own hemisphere.

Statements from administration officials leave the impression that the administration was caught off guard and unprepared to respond to the evolving crisis in Haiti, just 600 miles off the coast of Florida.

On February 17, Secretary Powell had this to say about Haiti:

We cannot buy into a proposition that says the elected president must be forced out of office by thugs and those who do not respect law.

But just over a week later, the White House released a statement that said:

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



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