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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 6, 2005, at 10 a.m.

## Senate

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2005

The Senate met at 10:01 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DAVID VITTER, a Senator from the State of Louisiana.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal and ever blessed God, help us to walk in Your steps. Show us the path of humility so that we will seek to serve others. Show us the path of forgiveness so that we will give others the same kind of mercy we so frequently receive from You. Show us the path of courage so that we can choose the challenging and narrow way that leads to life. Show us the path of endurance so that we will not become discouraged in doing well. Show us the path of loyalty so that nothing can tempt us to disappoint You.

Bless the Members of this body as they strive to walk in a way that will honor You. As they seek Your wisdom, guide them by the power of Your loving providence.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable DAVID VITTER 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. STEVENS).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, October 5, 2005.

To the Senate:

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

TED STEVENS,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. VITTER thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore. Mr. McCAIN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, shortly we will resume debate on the Defense ap-

propriations bill. We began consideration on that bill last Thursday. Since that time, Members have had Thursday night, Friday, and all day Monday. We were here all day Monday, all day yesterday, Tuesday, to offer amendments. We will continue with the amendment process through today.

As I have announced previously, we will stack votes beginning at sometime around 7:30 this evening to accommodate observance of the Jewish holiday. As I have said from the outset, our intentions are we will finish the Department of Defense appropriations bill this week prior to going out on our week-long recess. It is a critically important bill, something we will finish this week.

Last night, I did file cloture on the bill. I filed in order to ensure we finish the bill this week in an orderly way. Everyone has had the opportunity for the last 3 or 4 days to come forward and offer amendments. We will vote on those amendments tonight, and then we would have the cloture vote tomorrow morning.

Again, I encourage, as I have every day for the last several days, Members to come to the Senate and offer those amendments so we can vote on them. We have had more than 100 amendments filed. It is imperative that the Senators who are serious about their amendments and want them considered come forward and work with the managers over the course of this morning and not wait until tonight. We will finish the bill this week.

As a reminder, we will recess from 12:30 until 2:15 for the weekly party luncheons.

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



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