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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PAT ROBERTS, a Senator from the State of Kansas.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray:

Creator of the universe, help us to grasp the length, breadth, and depth of Your love for us. We marvel that You desire a relationship with us and have given us the privilege of conversing with You in prayer.

Bless our Senators today and the many others who labor with them to keep our Nation strong. Open our eyes that we might perceive Your presence in our lives and world. Strengthen and sustain our loved ones who support and encourage us. Mold and meld us into the people You desire as we surrender ourselves to You for the business of this day.

Lord, we also pray for those affected by Hurricane Wilma and ask that You would help and comfort them. We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable Pat Roberts 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 24, 2005.

To the Senate:

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

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we will immediately resume consideration of the Labor-HHS appropriations bill, following statements by myself and the Democratic leader. Amendments may be offered during today's session, and we hope Senators will come to the floor and offer their amendments. If Senators are unable to come to the floor, we ask that they notify the two managers or their respective cloakrooms of their intention to offer amendments and the specific subject matter. I know the distinguished chairman will have more to say on this. He has made it clear that at the appropriate time, he will go to third reading in order to complete this bill. His statement in saying that and my statement in restating that is that we will finish this bill this week. We absolutely must have people come to the floor today as soon as possible, instead of doing what

has become almost a custom here, wait a few days before making the managers aware of their amendments.

It means that we will be voting, of course, through this week. We will have votes later tonight which I will speak to. As I have said before, working with the Democratic leader, it is very important that we work Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. We have asked all of our colleagues, between now and Thanksgiving, to give us every Monday and every Friday instead, as has become the custom, of working Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday on the floor and not Monday and Friday. We will have to ask everybody's cooperation and participation. The chairman will have more to say about that momentarily. We will have one vote, probably two votes, possibly three votes, but we will have one or more votes today beginning at 5:30. We hope we can have a vote on the Labor-HHS bill, if an amendment is offered and debated this afternoon. In addition, we have three district judges on the Executive Calendar, and those may require rollcall votes. Therefore, Senators can expect to begin voting at 5:30 today.

I remind Senators, we will have a very busy week with this particular bill. Senators are asked to report on time when we call a vote. Again, the tendency has been to go beyond 15 minutes and, indeed, beyond 20 minutes. Because we have so much to do in such a limited amount of time over the next 4 weeks, we will have to tighten that up and ask people to be more responsive than in the past.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. FRIST. I am happy to yield.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have kept quiet the last 8 or 9 months on this issue, but I am glad to hear somebody raising the issue of how long these votes take. It is so discourteous, so impolite of Senators to have us wait around here for 35, 40 minutes on a vote. It is not right. People have other

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



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