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## Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LAMAR ALEXANDER, a Senator from the State of Tennessee.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray. Eternal Spirit, who brings a rich harvest with Your footsteps, mountains melt in Your presence. You are robed with honor and majesty. We praise Your name and celebrate Your goodness. Remind us that without Your help, there is no national security. May we focus less on what we can accomplish and more on Your unstoppable providence. Send Your peace into the hearts of our Senators. Take away distracting worries and fill them with faith. Cleanse them from any bitter or unforgiving spirit as You give them contentment in serving You and this great Nation. Inspire them with the courage to work to build a world without dividing walls. We pray in Your holy name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LAMAR ALEXANDER 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, November 14, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable LAMAR ALEXANDER, a Senator from the State of Tennessee, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. ALEXANDER 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. FRIST. Today we will be returning to the Defense authorization bill. I think this is our sixth day on the bill. We spent 5 or 6 days on it several months ago. Under the consent agreement from last Thursday, we will debate the final amendments to the Defense authorization bill today and then tomorrow morning we will have a series of votes on the remaining amendments, concluding with a vote on final passage of that bill. Those amendments include two amendments relating to our policies in Iraq and second-degree amendments to the Graham amendments on the status of detainees. We will start those votes at about 10:45 tomorrow morning, and therefore we will finish the Defense authorization bill prior to our normal recess that we take on Tuesdays for our respective policy lunches.

I also want to remind my colleagues that at 4:30 today, we will begin an hour of debate on the Energy and Water appropriations conference report. This will be our sixth conference report. We have done Homeland Security, Interior, Agriculture, Legislative Branch, and then Foreign Operations. This will be No. 6 as we continue to bring these bills across the floor one by one.

We will have a vote at about 5:30 today, after an hour of debate on En-

ergy and Water appropriations. In addition to those two matters, we have a whole host of other important issues to address prior to adjourning for Thanksgiving.

The most common question I get is on the schedule and what time we will be getting out for Thanksgiving and, of course, the holidays in December as well. In the short term, this week we may consider tax reconciliation under the statutory time limitation as provided by the Budget Act. The Budget Act provides for up to 20 hours of debate on that bill, and therefore we could have late nights during this week in order to finish that tax bill. We have five remaining appropriations conference reports, and we will consider them over the course of the week as they become available. We have Defense, Labor-HHS, MILCON, the Transportation-HUD bill, and DC appropriations.

As I mentioned, we will finish the Energy and Water conference report today, and we are ready to lock in a short time agreement on the Commerce, Justice, and Science conference report, which is now at the desk.

Following that one—today we will do six—we will have done seven of the appropriations conference reports. I expect the remainder to become available over the course of the week. As they become available, we will set aside time and have, hopefully, very tight time agreements and deal with them accordingly.

In addition to the DOD authorization bill and the conference reports, we have other things to address this week. On the conference report on the PATRIOT Act, which is expected this week, there has been a lot of work done over the course of the last 2 weeks and over the course of the weekend. We will complete that prior to our Thanksgiving time away as well.

Another item that we have worked on a lot over the last 5 or 6 weeks that

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



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