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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable John E. Sununu, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, open our hands today. Help us to use them to relieve suffering, to convey friendship, and to serve others. Open our eyes, O God, to see Your plan. Teach us Your precepts so that we will honor Your Name. Open our minds, Lord. Make us relentless in searching for Your truth.

Strengthen our lawmakers for today's challenges. Infuse them with patience and give them a vision of Your purposes for our world. Keep them from making judgments without examining the facts and weighing the evidence.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU 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 read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 22, 2006.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable John E. Sununu, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SUNUNU 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. Mr. President, this morning we will be resuming debate on a couple of pending amendments to the Defense authorization bill. Under the agreement, we will have 60 minutes of debate and closing remarks in relation to the Levin amendment and the Kerry amendment related to Iraq. Following that 60 minutes, the two leaders will have up to 30 minutes total for final remarks. After those statements, we will proceed to three rollcall votes. The first vote will be on the Levin amendment, to be followed by the Kerry amendment, to be followed by a vote on cloture on the bill.

If cloture is invoked, the two managers will then be in a better position to indicate how much work remains on the Defense bill. It is our intent to continue to work toward final passage, and therefore Senators should expect votes throughout the day and into the evening. I will have an update for Members early this afternoon after we conclude the votes and I consult with the Democratic leader and the bill managers.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

WOMEN SENATORS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the night before last, I went home and my wife told me: You have to be home tomorrow—that is, Wednesday night—because at 9 o'clock all nine Democratic women Senators will be on "Larry King." I did get home in time to watch the nine Democratic women Senators on "Larry King."

When I came to the House of Representatives, there were 22 women in that huge 435-Member body. Now I think there are 62 or something like that. I don't know the exact number.

I was elected to the Senate in 1986 with BARBARA MIKULSKI. As indicated last night, she is the dean of the Senate women. She is certainly the dean of those nine Democratic Senators there.

Having experienced the Senate, a body of 100, with hardly any women, I know how much better the Senate is because of having women in the Senate. It has improved the Senate. It has improved our country.

I was so proud of those nine women last night, proud of what our country has done and what it has come to. These women have not made the Senate better simply because they work on issues relating to women. That has only been part of their talent. They have worked on wide-ranging issues. Senator MIKULSKI, for example, spent tremendous time on health. The National Institutes of Health are located in her State. Senator FEINSTEIN, for example, was the ranking member and chair of the Military Construction Subcommittee responsible for billions of dollars. She has done an outstanding job.

I am not going to run through the talents of all nine, but they have made the Senate a much better place. Even though I, as the Democratic leader, was so very proud of those nine women last night, it didn't matter what their party affiliation was. This was good for the country to see these women there on national television, talking about

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



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