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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 6, 2006, at 2 p.m.

Senate

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2006

The Senate met at 11 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.

Lord and Creator of humanity, bless this legislative body today. Give Senators, during these challenging times, the calmness of Your abiding presence. Break the tensions of partisan divisions with the soothing music of unified effort. Teach our lawmakers the importance of slowing down long enough to seek Your wisdom, to hear Your voice, to connect with each other and to send their roots deep into the soil of life's enduring values.

Empower each of us to grow toward the stars of our greater destiny.

We pray in Your wonderful 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 5631, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5631) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30th, 2007, and for other purposes.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I have a short statement to make, and then I will reframe what I expect to happen over the course of this week and in the near future.

Similar to many of my colleagues, I spent the month traveling the country. I began in Tennessee and ended in Tennessee. I visited a number of States, from the west coast to the east coast, from Washington State to Florida. At each stop, I spent a lot of time doing what I hope, and I am sure, all of my colleagues did, listening, listening very carefully to what the American people are thinking and what they are feeling.

As I summarize and step away from the messages that were sent to me, it is pretty clear how we need to spend the next 4 weeks in the Senate before taking a break before the elections themselves. I will recite a few of the items and point out the direction that will lead us into the next several weeks.

I listened carefully, and again and again people confirmed what I already

knew: The Republican-led policies that we put into place are, indeed, working. To begin with, although despite derision from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, the economy continues to grow. As we saw yet again last week, month after month we consistently have added new jobs. Productivity, the driving impetus that raises the standards of living, continues to accelerate, continues to go up. We have faced down many adverse developments, many adverse events in the past few years, including the 2001 recession, the terrorist attacks of September 11, corporate governance scandals, and more recently, the devastating hurricanes and substantial increases in the cost of energy.

People do feel the rising cost of energy at the pump each day. They feel the rising cost of health care.

As Federal Reserve Bank Chairman Ben Bernanke pointed out last week, despite all of these obstacles, our economy continues to advance and continues to grow. I am convinced, as are the constituents I met with during each stop across the country, the economic security we enjoy is due in large part to the Republican-led policies of tax relief and fiscal restraint we have implemented.

What is forefront in the minds of the American people is the economy; even more so is security—yes, economic security but security in general.

From Georgia to California, and each stop in between, the people I met want reassurance. They want to know when their family boards a plane, for example, on vacation or going to Disneyland, that plane will be safe.

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



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