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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Our Father in heaven, light of the world, give the Members of this body Your light. Shine Your light to help them see the truth. Shine Your light so they can see the path You desire them to travel. Shine Your light so they can see themselves as they truly are and not take for granted the freedoms they enjoy. Shine Your light so they may live expectantly, open for what You will do or give. Shine Your light so they may see You in all Your majesty and love. Lord, fill this Chamber with the light of Your presence, enabling each Senator to discern and do Your will.

We pray in Your radiant Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN 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. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 2, 2007.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CARDIN 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. REID. Mr. President, the Senate will now begin a 60-minute period of morning business, the majority controlling the first half, Republicans controlling the final portion. Following the usage of all morning business, we will resume consideration of S. 1082, the FDA authorization legislation.

Yesterday, Senator DORGAN offered an amendment relating to drug reimportation. A cloture motion was filed on that last night. The cloture vote will occur tomorrow morning. Amendments in the second degree to the Dorgan amendment would have to be filed 1 hour prior to the cloture vote. I hope other Members who have amendments will file them as quickly as possible, to work with the managers. We have Senators KENNEDY and ENZI who are handling the legislation. They have a good relationship. They have done a lot already on this complicated legislation.

Yesterday, I indicated to the staff on both sides of the aisle that it may be necessary to have votes as early as noon on Monday. I hope we can finish the FDA bill tomorrow. If we can, then likely there would be no votes and we would move to other legislation, which would be WRDA, which has passed the House overwhelmingly. It came out of committee under the guidance of Senators BOXER and INHOFE, and we should be able to finish that bill next week.

Immigration is still on line to come up in the last 2 weeks of this work period. Next Wednesday, a week from today, I will rule XIV legislation that will put us in line to move to this during the last 2 weeks of this work period. It is legislation that is badly needed. We have had numerous meetings of Democratic and Republican Senators that have been going on for about 3 months. Progress has not been as we anticipated on either side, but we are going to move to this. Something has to be done. If we don't complete this legislation over here, then it certainly won't be done this year. Next year, a Presidential election year will make it very difficult. The three areas, of course, that are of concern are border security, and it is necessary that we visit that to see what can be done; with temporary workers, a pathway to legalization for the 12 million people who are here with bad paper; then we have to finally make sure we do something to make sure the employer sanctions aspect of the law is meaningful. At the present time, it is not. We have a lot to do there. I have had conversations with Senator KENNEDY, Senator LEAHY, and a number of other interested Senators over the last several weeks, including Senator KYL and others on the Republican side.

Mr. President, the President did veto the spending bill we sent him last night. It is unfortunate, but he did veto it. There will be a veto-override vote in the House tonight, it is my understanding.

The first piece of legislation dealing with another bill to send to the President will come to us from the House. I have had a number of consultations with Speaker PELOSI. At this stage, we are going to wait and see what happens at the White House today. The ball is in the President's court. He has to come forward with something that is satisfactory to Democrats and a significant number of Republicans.

There has to be some change of direction in the war. We find ourselves in

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



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