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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.

Eternal Lord God, before whose Eyes the ages pass, who knows our changing thoughts, help us to remember that You guide the planets and our times are in Your hands. Open our ears to hear Your voice as the heavens declare Your glory and the flowers speak of Your majesty. As You whisper in the wind, teach us to number our days and to seize the seasons You have given us to serve.

Strengthen our lawmakers for today's work. Give them priorities that honor You, patience to persevere, and humility to build new bridges of cooperation. Empower them, Lord, to do to others what they want done to themselves. Impart to them also the wisdom to live with gratitude to You, the author and finisher of our faith. We pray in Your sacred 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 9, 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, this morning, there will be 60 minutes for morning business, with the Republicans controlling the first half, and the Democrats controlling the second half.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the FDA legislation. Last night, due to the hard work of Senator ENZI and the staffs of Senators KENNEDY and ENZI, they were able to come to an agreement to complete action on this legislation today. I compliment the hard work of the many individuals who worked to accomplish this, especially Senator BROWN who, in the absence of the chairman, was here throughout the day to assist in moving the process along. In addition, I would like to single out Senator ENZI, who has worked so hard on this legislation in the committee and, of course, with it being on the floor. He has worked very well with Senator KENNEDY in the entire process of getting this legislation through the committee to the floor and now toward completion.

Through the hard work of these I have mentioned, we have only three amendments that are in order to the

bill, and we have 60 minutes of debate time. Votes on the remaining amendments and passage of the bill will occur around 11:30 this morning.

Following final action on the FDA bill, the Senate will consider, for up to 3 hours, the nomination of Debra Ann Livingston to be a circuit court judge. Upon the use or yielding back of that time, then a vote on confirmation will occur.

Once the judge has been confirmed, I have every belief that the Senate will begin and complete the process of going to conference on the budget resolution. I have spoken to Senator CONRAD earlier this morning. He and Senator JUDD GREGG get along extremely well, and they will work out the time on the number of motions to instruct and how many motions to instruct the minority will require. So Members should be prepared to work into the evening on this most important item.

Finally, the cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the water resources legislation will not occur before tomorrow morning. Today will be a busy day, with votes occurring throughout the day, so Members should plan accordingly.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on the FDA legislation, it is my understanding there will be three votes, and then final passage.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the votes occur all at one time?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is 2 minutes between each vote.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that be the case, and I also ask consent that there be 10-minute votes after the first vote.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered as to each request.

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



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