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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARY L. LANDRIEU, a Senator from the State of Louisiana.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, thank You for the miracle of Your love. We discover Your affection in the beauty of nature and the farflung immensity of space. We feel Your embrace in the orderly movement of the seasons, in the laws of seedtime and harvest, and in the unfolding of Your merciful providence. We receive Your kisses in the cry of a new baby, in the softness of a leaf, and in the lilies of the field.

Today, use the Members of this body as agents of Your love. Remind them that they fulfill Your will by loving You passionately and by earnestly caring for their neighbors. Open their ears to the cries of the less fortunate. We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARY L. LANDRIEU 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 assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 22, 2007.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable MARY L. LANDRIEU, a Senator from the State of Louisiana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Ms. LANDRIEU thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided, with the first half of the time under the control of the Republicans and the second half of the time under the control of the majority.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, as you just announced, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for 1 hour. Following morning business, we will resume consideration of the immigration legislation. Senator SESSIONS, under a previous order entered, is to be recognized for 2 hours. He will speak until 12:30 p.m. Today, the regular party conferences will be held beginning at 12:30 p.m., so Senator SESSIONS will complete his remarks after 2:15 p.m.

It is my understanding that the first amendment that has been agreed to be

laid down will be by Senator DORGAN. I don't know if there is a consent agreement to that effect. Is there one, Madam President?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There is not.

Mr. REID. I think this has been cleared on both sides. I ask unanimous consent that the first amendment be offered by Senator DORGAN, after the remarks of Senator SESSIONS.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Madam President, if there is any problem with this procedure, the two managers can ask unanimous consent, and we will all agree to change it. But I think that is the agreement which has been made. If it has not, we can start over. That is the general agreement. What we plan to do during consideration of the legislation is to alternate back and forth—Democrat and Republican, Democrat and Republican. That is what we did the last time.

The only thing I will announce—I told both managers and I think Senator McCONNELL agrees with this, and if not, it is something we need to do for an orderly process here—is that we do an amendment at a time. The last time on this bill, we wound up with 30, 40 amendments pending. I am saying we are not going to do that this time. We are going to do one amendment at a time, unless there is something extraordinary to come along to change that procedure.

We have a long amendment list. The substitute amendment was laid down last night. It is now available to all Members.

Tonight, I should announce, as has been announced in the past, there is going to be a dinner in the Botanic Garden to honor the spouses of the Senate. I hope all Members will attend this event.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Who seeks time? The Senator from New Hampshire.

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



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