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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KENT CONRAD, a Senator from the State of North Dakota.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, our Father, speak to us today that here in Your presence we may find knowledge of what You want us to do. Guide our Senators this week so that they clearly understand Your desires and give them the wisdom to obey. Provide them with daily strength to honor You with their service. May they never act in such a way that they lose their self-respect. Keep them from being the kind of people who want to get everything out of life while only putting a little into it. Remind them that they will answer to You for the way they have used their talents to serve others. Give them the ambition to honor You with faithfulness and humility.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KENT CONRAD 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, June 11, 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, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 3:30 p.m., with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. At 3:30 p.m., the Senate will have 2 hours of debate as follows: an hour on the motion to proceed to the energy legislation, and the second hour will be debate on the motion to proceed to the legislation expressing no confidence in Attorney General Gonzales. Starting at 5:30 p.m. today, the Senate will conduct a rollcall vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the Gonzales legislation. If that cloture vote fails, then the Senate will have a vote on the motion to proceed to the energy legislation.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

I now ask unanimous consent that at 5:10 today, until the vote at 5:30, the time be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders, with the majority leader controlling the final 10 minutes.

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

CONSIDERATION OF IMMIGRATION AND ENERGY ISSUES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have spent 2 weeks on the immigration bill,

and we listened to hour after hour of debate. I don't think there is a single Senator, no matter how one may have finally voted on the motion to proceed or not to proceed to the bill, who doesn't see an urgent need to fix our badly broken immigration system. Even those people who oppose this legislation vehemently believe the system is broken and needs to be fixed.

So everyone agrees that we need to fix it, and I think the best way to fix it is to legislate. When it came time to vote on the bipartisan compromise last Thursday, 7 Republicans joined with 38 Democrats to invoke cloture. Let us put that in proper perspective. Fourth-fifths of Democrats voted to proceed to complete this legislation, and one-seventh of the Republicans voted to proceed. That is 80 percent and 14 percent—80 percent of the Democrats said move forward and 14 percent of the Republicans said move forward. Eighty-six percent of the Republicans said no.

Today, in an hour or so, I am going to send a letter to President Bush to lay out my hope that we can still move forward on this legislation, but I want him to know that further progress will require active support from more Republicans, which is something he has to make sure his Republicans understand.

I see in today's Roll Call newspaper that one Republican Senator said: I think the Democrats are going to have to take care of most of those votes, the newspaper article says. Without mentioning the Senator's name, the article states:

Put the onus on Democrats to make up the 15-vote deficit on cloture, saying Republicans have nearly maxed out support on their side.

This appears on page 24 of Roll Call: "I think the Democrats are going to have to deal with most of those [votes]," the Senator said.

Mr. President, 80 percent and 14 percent. It is the President's bill. So if other Republican Senators feel the

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



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