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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DANIEL K. AKAKA, a Senator from the State of Hawaii.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal and dependable Creator of the Universe, we acknowledge You as the giver of every good and perfect gift. You are our solid rock. You arm us with strength. Thank You for the seasons and climates, for sowing and reaping, for color and fragrance. Thank You for the time of harvest when our labors and dreams are rewarded.

Today, bless our lawmakers. Illumine their lives to keep them on the right paths. May the creative power of Your word produce in them a stronger faith and an indomitable hope. Keep them from slipping. Fill them with courage as You show them Your unflinching love. Give them an attitude of openness to receive the fullness of Your grace and truth.

We pray in Your precious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable DANIEL K. AKAKA 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 read a communication to the Senate.

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 18, 2007.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable DANIEL K. AKAKA, a Senator from the State of Hawaii, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. AKAKA 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. Today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 3:30 p.m. The time will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees. Once morning business has closed, the Senate will resume consideration of the energy legislation. There are no rollcall votes today. There are a number of amendments pending. The managers are going to work on trying to dispose of some of those, and maybe there will be other amendments that will be offered today and debated today.

ENERGY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it is summertime and school is out and people are planning their vacations. Most all the vacations are ones where people drive. They, of course, go visit relatives, they go to the beaches and the mountains where it is cool, barbecuing with friends, but driving is part of America. If you have traveled in Nevada, which millions of people do by automobile every year, going through Nevada and coming to places such as Las Vegas, Reno, and Lake Tahoe, you find the price of gas is very high. But it is that way all over the country, not just Nevada. The record-high price is no accident. It is a result of America's addiction to oil.

I say again, as I have said many times before, today in America we are going to use 21 million barrels of oil; 65 percent of that oil we will import. We will do it from unstable countries and regions. We have been told with no uncertainty by scientists that we have only 10 to 15 years to do something to dramatically reduce the elements of pollution that cause global warming.

This week we are going to continue our debate on energy legislation. This is a bill on which every Senator should agree, but they do not. This is a bill that comes out of the Energy Committee on a bipartisan basis, a bill that comes out of the Environment and Public Works Committee on a bipartisan basis, a bill that comes out of the Commerce Committee on a bipartisan basis. They were all put together and this is what is before us, a bipartisan energy bill.

The bill addresses both sides of the energy crisis, consumption and supply. That is what it is all about. On the consumption side, this bill raises fuel economy standards for cars and trucks and raises efficiency standards for light, heat, and water.

We now know we have to produce vehicles that get 27 miles to the gallon. For people, including our automobile manufacturers, to say: We can't do it, we can't simply in a decade produce vehicles that will be 35-miles-per-gallon efficient—our country is one of ingenuity, of inventing things—certainly we can do that. We have to do that.

On the supply side, our legislation invests in renewable fuels that can be produced right here in America. It would sure be good for our country if we could include an amendment that would diversify power generation to include at least 15 percent of the energy from renewable sources. This will save consumers tens of billions of dollars every year, cut our oil consumption by more than 4 million barrels a day, reduce our dependence on oil and foreign energy sources, and take a giant step

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



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