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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 Father, the heavens proclaim Your glory, and the skies display Your craftsmanship. We thank You today for those who positively touch our lives. Thank You for mothers and fathers who make good homes and guide us to ethical maturity. Thank You for friends who help to make life beautiful as they inspire us to show great love. Thank You also for loved ones who through personal sacrifices have given us a great heritage. Thank You for our Senators who labor diligently to keep our country strong. May the words they speak this day and the thoughts they think be pleasing to you, Oh, Lord, our Rock, and our Redeemer. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARY L. LANDRIEU, a Senator from the State of Louisiana, 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 19, 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, this morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business for an hour, the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders. Republicans will control the first half and the majority controls the final 30 minutes.

The reason we did not go immediately to the bill at this time is there is a very important markup taking place in the Finance Committee dealing with the Energy bill, particularly the tax portions of the Energy bill. It is my understanding that Senators BOXER and GRASSLEY, with other members of the committee, have worked out a bipartisan measure they will bring to the floor as an amendment in the immediate future and it will be done today.

Once morning business closes, the Senate will then immediately resume consideration of the Energy bill about which I referred. Under our order of yesterday, the Senate will debate the Bunning and Tester amendments for a total of 2½ hours.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

I ask unanimous consent that the time for debate for these two amendments this morning be equally divided and controlled as previously ordered until 1 p.m., and that the Senate then recess until 2:15; that at 2:15, the re-

maining debate time also be equally divided and controlled, with the other provisions of the previous order remaining in effect.

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

Mr. REID. The agreement just entered now delays the conference recess period until 1 p.m. Following disposition of those two amendments this afternoon, the Senate will then debate three more amendments with the total debate time up to 90 minutes. Votes on these amendments will occur upon the use or yielding back of that time, so Members should expect two votes around 3 to 3:15, and then three more votes around 5:30.

I have conferred in detail with the distinguished Republican leader going over the schedule. I have told Democratic Senators, and I will repeat this at the caucus, we have a lot to accomplish before this work period ends. We have to complete the energy legislation, we have to complete work on the immigration bill, and we have to start defense authorization in some manner, recognizing that we will not have a lot of time on that.

It is up to the individual Senators as to how much time we take. If all time is used—as I said, I have gone over this in detail with the Republican leader and our staffs—we will not be able to finish until Saturday, a week from this Saturday, sometime in the evening. That would mean we would have to be in session this weekend. Maybe we have some people who may not object to one or two things. That being the case, we may not have to be in on Sunday this week. But everyone should understand, we have a lot of important votes. We have people running for President on both sides of the aisle. They should plan on being here, because their votes could make the difference. The energy legislation is extremely important. There are three issues that are the main focus of this

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



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