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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.

Almighty God, hear the cries of the needy. Listen to the voices of the lonely, sick, homeless, incarcerated, poor, and institutionalized. Incline Your ears to the pleading of those who need our love, especially the spiritually destitute. In response to these needs, stir us and the Members of this body to see Your face in the depressed, hungry, and deprived people of our world. Open our eyes to see poverty beneath diamonds of glitter or wealth of spirit beneath raiment of rags. May the work done in the Senate bring deliverance to the least, the lost, and lonely.

Lord, solve the problems of poverty of soul and purse by giving our leaders the wisdom to pursue Your purposes. Help them to remember that You answer the prayers prayed by millions, using legislative hearts and hands. In their efforts to help the hurting, inspire our lawmakers to attempt something they couldn't do without Your power.

We pray in Your strong 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, October 3, 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.

CHAPLAIN BLACK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, those of us in the Senate do not take for granted our Chaplain. I want those who were fortunate enough to hear his prayer this morning to understand that the Chaplain of the Senate, Barry Black, is a brilliant man. He has a photographic memory. He is a great writer, as indicated by the prayer he delivered. The prayer itself says it all about what our function should be as legislators.

His mother was a great mother. He talks about her all the time. He is from Baltimore. She used to give him pennies for memorization, and even at that, I am sure she lost a lot of money because he has such a great mind. He is the only person I have dealt with over the years with a memory that is comparable to Senator BYRD who has the ability to recite things.

I want to make sure those listening to this prayer understand that we don't take this great man for granted. He is a retired admiral from the U.S. Navy, a fine man.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2128

Mr. REID. It is my understanding that S. 2128 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2128) to make the moratorium on Internet access taxes and multiple and discriminatory taxes on electronic commerce permanent.

Mr. REID. I object to any further proceedings with respect to this bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. This morning, following the time Senator MCCONNELL and I may use, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for an hour. The time is equally divided and controlled. The majority will control the first half; Republicans will control the final half. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3222, the Department of Defense appropriations bill, and then conduct up to 30 minutes of debate with respect to the Graham amendment relating to emergency funding for border security. A vote in relation to that amendment will occur once the time is used or yielded back, around 11 or shortly thereafter.

I know I speak for the managers when I say that if Members have any amendments, they better get here because Senator STEVENS and Senator INOUE won't wait. In fact, I think they will ask consent when the bill is on the floor that at a certain time, if no other amendments are offered, the only amendments in order would be those filed up to that time. Cloture was filed—not that it is necessary. We hope it isn't. I hope we can finish this bill today. I have had a short conversation

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



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