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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at 2 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2007

The Senate met at 8:30 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.

Eternal Spirit, the giver of every good and perfect gift, as we enter the Thanksgiving season, heighten our gratitude for the blessings You so lavishly bestow upon us. Deepen our appreciation for the resources so uncommonly plentiful in our land. Lord, so many in our world live in fear. You have enabled us to live in freedom. So many in our world are hungry, but we have plenty to eat. So many in our world can't read or write, but You have placed in our Nation great institutions of higher learning. So many in our world don't know You as Savior, but we are grateful for Your saving love.

Use our Senators today to touch hurting lives. Make them sensitive to the pain in our world. May they become such good stewards of their influence and power that they will be advocates for the voiceless, the weak, the poor, the elderly, and the neglected. Let compassion be the hallmark of their deliberations. We pray in the name of Him who gave His life for all. 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 Repub-

lic 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, November 16, 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.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2363

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to direct the clerk to report S. 2363, which is at the desk and due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2363) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would object to any further proceedings with respect to this measure.

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning, there will be debate prior to the first of three cloture votes. The first cloture vote is on the Motion to Proceed to S. 2340, the second cloture vote is on the Motion to Proceed to H.R. 4156, the House-passed Orderly and Responsible Iraq Redeployment bill, and the third vote is a vote on invoking cloture on the Harkin substitute amendment to the farm bill.

All debate time is equally divided between the two leaders, with each leader speaking for 5 minutes immediately prior to the first vote, which will occur at 9:30.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. President, I now ask unanimous consent that the vote time after the first vote be limited to 10 minutes.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, yesterday was a day of real negativity by our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. The country could have benefitted

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



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