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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the State of Virginia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God of divine love, help our Senators today to rise to the challenge of the needs of our world. Inspire them to do this by making new commitments to You, followed by faithful service. Make them strong in Your strength, that they will not become weary in doing Your will. Help them to understand that the riches of our lives and this great land have been given to us by Your loving providence.

Remind them also that to whom much is given, much is expected, and that they are accountable to You for their stewardship as they journey through life. Empower our lawmakers to use their considerable abilities to serve You and humanity.

We pray in the Name of Him who gave His life for all. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB 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, January 28, 2008.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the State of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WEBB thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

RENDERING PUBLIC SERVICE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, a year ago today, the Presiding Officer gave one of the classic speeches in American history as a freshman Senator responding to the State of the Union Message. It was a message that was accepted on both sides of the aisle by the people of Virginia and everyone in this country. I wish to remind the Senator what a great public service he rendered last year in giving this speech.

SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. REID. We are going to try to get approved very quickly—we are cleared on this side; we are waiting to have the Republicans clear Governor Shafer to be the Secretary of Agriculture. We would like to get that done in the next little bit. After we do this, it takes the White House a number of hours to get all the paperwork in order so that he can be sworn in. It would be really nice if we could get him to attend the State of the Union Address tonight. This would be extremely good.

President Bush has nominated him. This will be the last State of the Union speech the President will give, and it would be good if he had a Secretary of Agriculture there during those proceedings. So as soon as it is cleared by the Republicans, we will clear Governor Shafer to be the Secretary of Agriculture.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 2248

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the previously scheduled cloture vote on the substitute amendment occur at 4:40 p.m. today and that all provisions under the previous order remain in effect. Our staffs have talked; I am confident the Republican leader is aware of this.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this afternoon the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders.

At 3 p.m., the Senate will resume consideration of the FISA legislation. The time until 4:40 p.m. will be equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the final 20 minutes equally divided and controlled between the two leaders, with the majority leader controlling the final 10 minutes.

At 4:40 p.m., the Senate will proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Rockefeller-Bond substitute amendment. If cloture is not invoked on the substitute, the Senate will then proceed to a second vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Reid amendment to the underlying bill.

As a reminder, there is a 4 p.m. filing deadline for second-degree amendments.

At 9 p.m. tonight, the President will deliver the State of the Union Address to a joint session of Congress. Senators will gather in the Senate Chamber at 8:20 p.m. and then proceed as a body to the Hall of the House of Representatives at 8:30.

Senators are encouraged to attend the Secretary of the Senate annual

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



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