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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, who desires truth in the inward parts, keep our lawmakers in Your care. As they dedicate their talents to the Nation's well-being, make our Senators faithful to each challenging duty, loyal to every high claim, and responsive to the human needs of this suffering Earth. Set a seal upon their lips that no thoughtless words shall sting or harm another. Strengthen them to meet this day's waiting tasks with kindness and good will. Lord, give them strength of will, steadiness of purpose, and power to do good for the glory of Your Name.

We pray this in the Name that is above every name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK L. PRYOR 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, February 14, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK L. PRYOR, a

Senator from the State of Arkansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

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

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2633, S. 2634, S. 2636

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there are three bills at the desk due for their second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bills by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2633) to provide for the safe redeployment of United States troops from Iraq.

A bill (S. 2634) to require a report setting forth the global strategy of the United States to combat and defeat al Qaeda and its affiliates.

A bill (S. 2636) to provide needed housing reform.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to these bills, and I object en bloc.

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

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and any the Republican leader wishes to make, we will resume consideration of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. Senator DORGAN and Senator MURKOWSKI are here. I believe this is our fourth day. Someone told me yesterday: But they were short days. The only reason they were short is because nobody has been here to offer any amendments. They would

have been longer days, as I indicated last night.

I hope people will come and offer amendments. That is what we need to do. We need to move through this legislation. We have been told that Members who have amendments are waiting to offer them. I hope they will do that. We are going to finish the bill this week. We have a break coming next week. We really would like to get the work done. We could finish it today. I hope we can do so.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### INDIAN HEALTH CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2007

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1200, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1200) to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to revise and extend that Act.

Pending:

Bingaman/Thune amendment No. 3894 (to amendment No. 3899), to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for a limitation on the charges for contract health services provided to Indians by Medicare providers.

Vitter amendment No. 3896 (to amendment No. 3899), to modify a section relating to limitation on use of funds appropriated to the Service.

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



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