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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2008

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, our sovereign King, You have given us the gift of another day. Thank You for the opportunity to serve You by serving others.

As our lawmakers labor for liberty, empower them to promote the welfare of this land. Give them the wisdom to look to You for support and blessings. Lord, may they not trust in human efforts alone but humbly acknowledge that You, Almighty God, preside over the destiny of nations. As they look back, help them to see Your hands working in our history and thereby find strength to face the future with optimism and thanksgiving. Let Your goodness and mercy sustain them throughout life's seasons. Remind them that You never ask them to do more than You will provide the strength for them to accomplish.

We pray in the Redeemer's Name. 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 7, 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 Commonwealth 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.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of Senator MCCONNELL, if he chooses to make some remarks, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business until 3 o'clock today. Senators during that period of time will be allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

At 3 o'clock the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3221, which is the vehicle we have used to move the housing legislation. As previously announced, there will be no votes today.

HOUSING VOTES

Mr. REID. Mr. President, thanks to Senators DODD, BAUCUS, SHELBY and GRASSLEY and their staffs, we have had some good bipartisan work on this housing bill. This bill will help communities, homeowners, and the homebuilding industry. This bill is not a silver bullet, but it is an important first step, so I hope we can pass it quickly and overwhelmingly so we can send it along to the House of Representatives.

We have nine pending amendments. I have asked my staff to see what they can do to work with the Republicans to see if we can come up with votes tomorrow morning on those amendments that are germane. The Parliamentarian has had a chance to look at those. A number of them are clearly germane, and I hope we can vote on them tomorrow morning.

IRAQ

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this is an important week not only because we are going to finish the housing bill this week but also because General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker will testify. There are a number of questions they must be asked by Members of the Senate. The first one is will our troops come home soon or when will our troops come home. And I think they should be asked if the Iraq war has made America safer.

When the surge began more than a year ago, President Bush labeled the strategy "return on success." As the surge succeeds, according to the President, our troops would come home. We

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



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