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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.

Holy God, how excellent is Your Name and all the Earth. Our praise can never match Your glory and majesty. Your grace gives worth even to the least of our efforts, so use us to fulfill Your purposes.

Give the Members of this body a new vision of Your glory. Help them to see that no obstacle is so difficult, no challenge so great, no setback so irreversible that Your purposes will not prevail. Free them to depend on You more deeply as they wait patiently for You to replenish their spirits. Lord, speak to our Senators so that their words may reflect the tenor of Your truth and the tone of Your grace. Father, let Your Name be magnified, for the kingdom, the power, and the glory belong to You. 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, April 16, 2008.

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.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following my remarks and those of Senator MCCONNELL, if he chooses to make any this morning, there will be a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled by the two leaders or their designees. The majority will control the first half, and the Republicans will control the second half.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the highway corrections bill. There will be no rollcall votes between 10 and 11 because the Pope is at the White House. I have spoken to staff, and I think we should be on a pathway of finishing this bill today. I hope so. I hope it is not necessary to file cloture on the bill. If that is necessary, I will file cloture this afternoon, and a vote will occur on Friday morning.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the

Senate will now proceed to a period of morning business, with the time divided and controlled by the two leaders or their designees, with the majority controlling the first half of the time and the Republicans controlling the final half.

Mr. DURBIN. 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. MCCONNELL. 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.

VIRGINIA TECH TRAGEDY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 1 year ago today, a tragedy struck the campus of Virginia Tech, where the lives of 32 students and faculty members were tragically cut short in what was the worst campus shooting in U.S. history. We remember with sadness the terrible loss we all suffered that day while we all mourned with the Virginia Tech family. Our prayers go out to everyone in the Virginia Tech community who is remembering a loved one on this day.

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. GRAHAM. 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.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I would like 5 minutes to talk about the judge situation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is recognized.

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



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