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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 8, 2008, at 2 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JULY 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.
Holy God, creator and sustainer of life, thank You for the inward prompting that draws us closer to You. Bless our Senators today. Make them leaders who are true and strong. Empower them to live lives that are above reproach. Give them self-control, generosity, gentleness, and humility. Lord, remind them that You do not ask for success but faithfulness. Help them to set exemplary standards in their speech, conduct, love, faith, and purity. Give them a productive persistence that will keep them from weariness as they do good. Bless their families and surround their loved ones with Your favor.

We pray in Your great 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 assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 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, today, following leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 3 p.m. Senators will be permitted therein to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

I know the two managers of the housing bill plan on being here on or about that time. As I have indicated, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message that accompanies H.R. 3221, housing reform legislation, under a previous order. At 5:30 p.m. today, the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote on the motion to concur with respect to the housing reform legislation.

Before we left for the Fourth of July recess, we were able to reach an agreement on FISA legislation. We will debate the bill.

I have spoken to the distinguished Republican leader today. We are going to try to get an agreement—I feel very comfortable that we can—and we will complete all the debate tomorrow. There are a number of Senators proceeding to North Carolina for the funeral of Senator Helms. So they could spend whatever time is necessary to be in North Carolina and not feel pressed on coming back, we are going to try to do the votes Wednesday morning. I think that will work out just fine for everyone's schedule. We will debate the bill then tomorrow afternoon; tomorrow night, we have 7 hours set aside. We may even leave a little time for Wednesday morning. We will see how that goes. Whatever I do will have to be with the agreement of the Republican leader; otherwise, we finish everything tomorrow night and no one thinks that would be appropriate. Senators will be notified as soon as this is worked out. We will try to have a unanimous consent agreement on that at the earliest possible time today.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR JESSE HELMS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on Friday, the Fourth of July—in fact the Fourth of July had just broken; it was an hour and a half after midnight—the Senate lost a Member of our Senate family: Jesse Helms of North Carolina.

I can't but think of Jesse Helms and the first name that enters my mind is

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



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