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Senate

The Senate met at 1:45 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK R. WARNER, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Creator and upholder of our lives, we can't escape from Your presence or control, nor do we desire to do so. We stand in awe of Your power, mercy, and majesty. Our thoughts of Your goodness banish our fears. Today give to the Members of the Senate a high sense of the common purpose that unites them. Deliver them from that stubborn pride that imputes to itself infallibility and that pits partisanship against national interest. Father of all, guide our lawmakers through discussion, debate, and confrontation to the solutions so desperately needed in our land. We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK R. WARNER 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 clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 15, 2009.

To the Senate:

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

Senator from the Commonwealth of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNER 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 leader remarks, the Senate will be in a period for the transaction of morning business for Senators to speak for up to 10 minutes each. There will be no roll-call votes today. Tomorrow Senators should expect a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the Travel Promotion Act. That will be prior to our weekly caucus luncheons.

This week, we are going to do the best we can to complete the Travel Promotion Act and the supplemental bill. We should be able to do that and, hopefully, get some nominations done. Next week, we have other things we need to do, including the Homeland Security appropriations bill. I spoke with the Republican leader on a number of occasions on that issue. To get to it next week, we need a consent agreement because the House will not act on it until probably Wednesday of next week or something like that. It does not give us enough time, and we need to start earlier. We will work on that and see what we can come up with.

We have announced before that the 5 weeks after we get back from the Fourth of July recess will be very busy with a lot of work. The HELP Committee and the Finance Committee are going to have their bills reported out of their committees before we leave a week from Friday so we can start working on the health care legislation in the Senate.

The next work period will be very heavy, although we have—I cannot complain—we have been able to complete a tremendous amount of legislation. I was told over the weekend the work we have been able to do to this point is as much as any President has ever accomplished and Congress has accomplished with the President during the first 5 months of a legislative session but for the first time of Roosevelt.

We passed some major legislation. We should all feel good about that. But there is so much more to do. We have to roll up our sleeves and work even harder with health care and energy not far down the road.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WEBB). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Virginia is recognized.

SENIOR NAVIGATION AND PLANNING ACT OF 2009

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about legislation to help

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



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