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## Senate

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK BEGICH, a Senator from the State of Alaska.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Shepherd of souls, who neither slumbers nor sleeps, we seek the completeness that can only be found in You. Lift us above Earth's strident noises until we hear Your still small voice in our inmost being.

Lord, give the Members of this body the wisdom to permit their deep needs to drive them to You. Give them the wisdom to heal divisions and to liberate the oppressed. May Your presence break down every divisive wall and bring a spirit of unity. Silence disruptive voices that would ignite and inflame disunity. Today we again ask Your choicest blessings upon our military men and women and their families who give so much to keep us free.

We pray in the Name of Him who came to set us free. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK BEGICH 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 20, 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 BEGICH, a Senator from the State of Alaska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

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

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, following the remarks of the leader, the Senate will resume consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill. Under an agreement reached last week, there will be up to 40 minutes for debate prior to votes in relation to amendments relating to hate crimes. Those votes would be in relation to one amendment offered by Senator LEAHY or his designee and three amendments offered by Senator SESSIONS. It is my understanding that we may be able to dispose of the Leahy amendment by a voice vote and that the managers are working on the Sessions amendment regarding Attorney General regulations. Upon the use or yielding back of all debate time, the Senate will proceed to a series of at least two rollcall votes and possibly up to four rollcall votes. The votes could occur in the 4 p.m. range. After the Senate disposes of those amendments, we will resume debate on the gun amendment offered by Senator THUNE. Second-degree amendments are in order to the gun amendment. Also under the agreement reached last week, upon disposition of the Thune amendment, Senator LEVIN will be recognized to offer the Levin-

McCain amendment relating to the F-22s.

I yield the floor.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1390, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1390) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2010 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Thune amendment No. 1618, to amend chapter 44 of title 18, United States Code, to allow citizens who have concealed carry permits from the State in which they reside to carry concealed firearms in another State that grants concealed carry permits, if the individual complies with the laws of the State.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nebraska.

### CAP AND TRADE

Mr. JOHANNIS. Mr. President, I rise to discuss an Agricultural Committee hearing that is scheduled later on this week. It is an important topic. The hearing is titled "The Role of Agriculture and Forestry in Global Warming Legislation." I look forward to participating. This is the committee's first effort this year to tackle the ongoing climate change debate. It is very important. Much of the discussion in both Houses of Congress has centered on potential new legislation and regulations relative to climate change. Any

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



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