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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2009, at 2 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2009

The Senate met at 2 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.

God our help of the ages past, our hope for years to come, in Your secret places we find our faith and strength. Help us to know ourselves for who we are, people who too often seek our own way instead of striving to fulfill Your purposes. Cleanse the inner foundations of our hearts from any hint of pretense and use our Senators for Your glory. In this challenging hour of human destiny, deepen in our Senators a sense of surpassing opportunity to do their full part in building a better nation and world. Lord, fit them to protect this land from outward evil and from inner corruption. Make the words of their mouths and the meditations of their hearts be acceptable in Your sight, O God, our rock and our Redeemer. 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, August 3, 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 of morning business for up to 1 hour. Senator BEGICH will give his maiden speech. We all look forward to this. He will have the first 30 minutes of morning business time. I note before he starts his speech, we are all so pleased with the work he has done. He has done an outstanding job for the people of the State of Alaska and our country, and I look forward to his re-

marks. The Republicans will control the final 30 minutes.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the Agriculture Appropriations Act. At 5:30 the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote on the substitute amendment to the bill. Additional votes in relation to the amendments are possible following the cloture vote. The deadline for filing first-degree amendments is 3:30 today.

In speaking to Senator BROWNBACK and on our side Senator KOHL, who is the comanager of the bill and who, of course, would love to finish it today, Senator BROWNBACK said on Thursday that he thought we could finish the bill this evening and I hope that in fact is the case. The longer we are on this bill the less time there will be for Sotomayor speeches, so we look forward to completing this Agriculture appropriations bill so we can go to the Supreme Court nomination and listen to what people have to say about the new Supreme Court Justice.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the American people wake up every morning worrying about real problems. They go to bed every night with real concerns. They worry about the agonizing sacrifices they have to make so they can afford to stay healthy, and their fear is sincere.

Our response and responsibility to the American people should be equally grounded in reality. That reality is that our health care system is in serious distress. I believe serious problems

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



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