The Senate met at 9:15 a.m. and was called to order by the Presiding Officer, the Honorable Jon S. Corzine, a Senator from the State of New Jersey.

PRAYER
The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Loving Father, we want to know You so well, trust You so completely, seek Your wisdom so urgently, and receive Your inspiration so intentionally that we will be people attentive to the guidance of Your Spirit. May we be totally available for the influence of Your Spirit. Help us to be as receptive to Your direction. Alarm us with disquiet in our souls if what we plan is less than Your best. With equal force confirm any convictions that will serve forward what You think is best for us. Place Your hand on the Senators’ shoulders today. Remind them that You are with them and will guide them. You are Jehovah Shamah. You will be there! Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCED
The Honorable Jon S. Corzine 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 Acting President pro tempore. 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.

To the Senate:
Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable Jon S. Corzine, a Senator from the State of New Jersey, to perform the duties of the Chair.

Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME
The Acting President pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.