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Senate

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, from the rising of the Sun to the coming of evening, we lift Your name in praise. During these long days and short nights, we have felt Your presence. Thank You for sustaining our lawmakers in their challenging work. Strengthen them to do what is right so that our Nation will be blessed by Your love. Empower them to treat one another with respect and honor. Teach us to hate what is evil and to cling to what is good. Remind us of how fleeting the days of our lives are, and give us the wisdom to prepare for eternity.

We anticipate all You are going to do in the coming months. Lord, You are our God. We will exalt You and praise Your name, for in perfect faithfulness You have done marvelous works. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in a moment we will proceed to the conference report to accompany the FSC/ETI, or JOBS bill. It is my understanding that we would be unable to reach a time

agreement on the conference report, and therefore I will file a cloture motion on it this morning.

Immediately after filing of that cloture, we will begin the vote on invoking cloture on the McConnell-Reid substitute amendment to the intelligence reform and homeland security resolution. The managers made substantial progress over the course of yesterday and last night. At this juncture, we are down to only a handful of amendments.

Senators who do have amendments remaining should stay close to the Chamber this morning as we hope to move quickly on the underlying resolution. If Members are not timely in coming to offer their amendments, we will be moving to adoption of the resolution.

At this juncture, we really should have no delay. Every hour that we delay over the course of today means an hour later before we adjourn, whether that is later tonight or tomorrow or the next day. We need to move on to complete the remaining legislative items before our adjournment. As we all know, the clock is working against us.

We will finish the pending intelligence reform resolution. We will finish the FSC/ETI conference report. We will finish the Homeland Security appropriations conference report. Finally, we also expect to finish the Department of Defense authorization conference report.

Obviously, from those four items you can see we have a lot to do, a full plate of business before our adjournment. Yet all of these can be handled expeditiously, but it is going to take the cooperation of each and every one of our Members. Individual Members are going to be able to determine whether we have to continue to work through the weekend, including Saturday and Sunday, to complete our business.

I don't believe, if you look at it and you look at where each of these four items is, that it is necessary for it to

take that long. We can very efficiently work through these items, but every Senator is going to have to cooperate. If not, it will be necessary to continue late tonight, Saturday, and possibly Sunday with these four items we must complete before adjourning.

We will be voting throughout today and, if necessary, tomorrow and into Sunday. I believe we could finish all of this even late today if Senators focus on it and work together. Again, we need to finish all four items before we adjourn.

I will be happy to yield for a moment to the Democratic leader before proceeding to the FSC conference report.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOND). The Senator from South Dakota is recognized.

INTELLIGENCE REFORM

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, last night, we reached agreement on a finite list of amendments to the intelligence reorganization resolution. As I understand it, there are six amendments that will be addressed today following cloture, so we have made good progress. It is a resolution I strongly support. Like the 9/11 Commission legislation, it is imperative that we finish it. It is imperative that we have an opportunity to work through these amendments. I hope everybody could cooperate with regard to time on the amendments.

I again commend the two managers. This has not been an easy task. Dealing with legislative jurisdiction is one of the trickiest of all the challenges and efforts we as legislators face. They have done a masterful job. I commend them again this morning and look forward to completing our work today.

I yield the floor.

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



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