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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 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.

God of our eternal hope, those who serve You live in Your presence. Give our lawmakers the wisdom to follow Your teachings. Let Your precepts lead them to make laws that will help the marginalized and strengthen our Nation's moral foundation. May Your wisdom provide them with strategies to defeat the enemies of this land. Remind them that You have a plan which will bring them to a desired end.

Instill in them courage to love their enemies, grace to bless those who curse them, and power to pray for those who mistreat them. By their faithfulness, may they demonstrate daily that they are, indeed, Your children.

We pray in Your holy Name. 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business until 10 a.m., with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning at 10, we will have a vote on the adoption of the conference report to accompany the Department of Defense appropriations bill. That will be the first vote of the day. We will then resume postcloture debate on the border fence bill. Given yesterday's cloture vote of 71 to 28, I am hopeful to complete this bill early in the day.

Following the border fence bill, under the order, there will be a cloture vote on the Child Custody message. The Homeland Security appropriations conference report has been filed, and we will need to consider this important funding legislation as soon as it becomes available. In addition to the items I have outlined, we have executive items to address, including treaties and nominations, one of which is the Secretary of the Department of Transportation. As of now, a Saturday session certainly is a possibility, and I will update my colleagues on the schedule later today as we continue to move forward.

As I said, Senators can anticipate a full day during today's session.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, while the distinguished majority leader is on the floor, let me make a couple of comments.

First, if I can ask the Parliamentarian: What time will the vote take

place on final passage on the border security bill?

Mr. FRIST. It should be 3 a.m.

Mr. REID. That is a fairly good estimate, Mr. President—about 3 o'clock on Saturday morning?

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, while you are checking that out, it is my understanding, based on discussions last night, that we started at 9 o'clock last night. That is when the time officially started, and it would be 30 hours from 9 o'clock last night, which will be about 3 a.m.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on the bill that is now before this body, I hope that if there are going to be amendments, one of the amendments we need to take into consideration—I am sure the leader has heard from his Members, as I have heard from mine—is disaster relief. I hope we have this vehicle moving through here today and that we do something regarding agricultural disaster assistance legislation. We passed it three times in this body, and it has never made it out of the House.

It is not just the Midwestern States that we know produce a lot of food. We have had natural disasters all over. The State of Nevada has had raging fires. In California, there is one fire that has been burning since the 1st of September and they still haven't put it out. So I hope the leader will consider that legislation.

Also, I wasn't able to respond to my friend, the distinguished majority leader, last night, but on the India nuclear bill legislation, the reason this matter hasn't been to the floor much earlier is there was a provision put in this legislation by Senator LUGAR. I agree with it. I support the legislation. But on the majority side, there are people who have held up the legislation because of that provision.

This is important legislation. I have said on a number of occasions that I strongly support this legislation. It is important we find time to consider this bill before this Congress comes to an

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



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