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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 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:

Spirit of God, who brought creation out of the void, light from darkness, and order from chaos, everything under Heaven belongs to You. Lord, work with us to bring harmony where there is discord. Use our daily experiences of joy and sorrow, pleasure and pain, victory and defeat, for Your glory.

As enemies of liberty seek to create insecurity and fear, remind us that no evil can stop the unfolding of Your purposes and Providence. Thank You for leading us each day with Your merciful hands and for providing for our needs. You prepare tables of peace and confidence for us in the presence of our enemies, causing us to rejoice because of Your faithfulness.

Bless our leaders. Protect them with the shield of Your love. Fill their hearts with Your joy and give them Your peace. We pray this 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 be a period for the transaction of morning business until 10:30 a.m., with 30 min-

utes under the control of the Senator from Florida, Mr. GRAHAM, and the remaining time under the control of the majority leader.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, under a previous order, we will be in morning business until 10:30 a.m., as mentioned. At 10:30 we will begin the highway bill. As mentioned yesterday, it will be very important to address this bill and spend the appropriate time this week and through next week with the objective of completing this bill by the end of next week. It is a very important bill in terms of supporting our infrastructure throughout this country, in terms of providing that infrastructure to support our economy, and also to create jobs. It is a very important bill.

The relevant committees met yesterday. Some of those committee meetings will be affected by the closure of the office buildings today, but we will have further announcements on the committee meetings a little bit later this morning.

We will be here today, and I do encourage Members to make their opening statements today. We will have a comment shortly on the policy luncheons today within the next several minutes after I speak with the Democratic leader.

### RICIN FINDING

I will comment very quickly—because there are a lot of questions and a lot of news reports—as most people know, in midafternoon yesterday, a powder that was ultimately determined to be ricin was found in my personal office building. Everything was handled in a very appropriate way in terms of the screening tests that have been es-

tablished, and ultimately, after a series of tests of what are called specificity and sensitivity tests, confirmatory results came back last night at around 9:30 that this was ricin.

There will be a lot of discussion in the news and around here as to what ricin is. As I mentioned last night, it is a type of what we call a toxin or a poison. It is not a virus, and it is not a bacteria, so a lot of people say it is not biological, but it is made from a castor bean. Somebody, in all likelihood, manufactured this with an intent to harm, and this is a criminal investigation that will be underway.

As everyone knows by now—or we hope they know—we made a decision, based on the procedures that are quite thorough and comprehensive, to close the three Senate office buildings today. Meetings have continued through the night and today over the course of this morning thus far. Further decisions will be made about reopening those buildings. The real purpose of that is that the mail be addressed in an appropriate way in those buildings.

Let me also say that all air sampling and all environmental studies today are negative with the exception of what was found in that single office at that site.

With that, I think I will stop to say we will have our activity here on the floor of the Senate. The Capitol Building is open today, and individual committee chairmen will be announcing what the plans are with hearings that were scheduled today in the Senate office buildings. Most of those will be closed.

At this time I will turn to the Democratic leader. We will likely be making other announcements over the course of the morning.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

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



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