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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 28, 2004, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2004

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHUCK HAGEL, a Senator from the State of Nebraska.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God our King, You deserve our praise. Because of Your great mercy we approach Your throne today. You delight in righteousness and manifest Your mercy to those who keep their eyes on You. Thank You that each difficulty is an opportunity to see Your work, for You always bring us through trouble to a place of abundance.

Bless the Members of this body. Give them the wisdom to live at peace with each other and with You. Rescue them from discouragement and inspire them with hope. Bring them safely through the complex challenges of today and tomorrow, for You are their protection from life's storms.

Protect America from the traps of its enemies and keep this Nation strong. Bless this land with peace and happiness, as we celebrate each day as a gift from You.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHUCK HAGEL 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. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 27, 2004.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable CHUCK HAGEL, a Senator from the State of Nebraska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. HAGEL assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we will have a period of morning business until the hour of 2 p.m., and at 2 o'clock under the order from last week we will begin consideration of S. 2845, the intelligence reform bill sponsored by Senators COLLINS and LIEBERMAN. As we announced on Friday, amendments are in order to the bill today. However, no rollcall votes will occur. Any votes ordered with respect to any amendment will be delayed until tomorrow morning.

Following the opening remarks on the intelligence legislation, we hope some Members will be available to begin that amendment process.

I also encourage any Senator who anticipates offering additional amendments to the bill to contact the chairman and ranking member of the Governmental Affairs Committee. This is a critically important piece of legislation. It would be extremely helpful to have an orderly consideration of the bill, and we expect to do just that. With a full week of Senate business, we should be able to finish the bill this week.

We could have other legislative matters to complete over the course of this week, including such measures as a highway extension and a continuing resolution. Therefore, Senators should be prepared for full days and evenings as we wrap up these matters.

As everyone knows, the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission were released in late July. Immediately thereafter we began a very structured and orderly hearing process. A number of committees held hearings over the course of August. The Governmental Affairs Committee in a very orderly way had a markup and considered the range of recommendations and findings that have emerged. Now we have a bill that is being brought to the floor to be debated and appropriately amended, if necessary and as necessary, over the course of this week.

This will be a very full week. It is important that we start on this bill today, and we will continue with each and every day until we complete that bill.

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



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