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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SAM BROWNBACK, a Senator from the State of Kansas.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, Your love never ends. You continue to care about us through all of life's seasons. You give us confidence to work for a better tomorrow. Your grace prompts us to touch hurting lives.

Strengthen our Senators today to be good stewards of Your gifts. May they serve one another and our Nation with whatever talents they have received from You. Shine into their minds and hearts the light of Your wisdom that they may be heralds of hope in a time of despair.

Inspire us all to labor with patience, empowered by the sure hope that the harvest is certain. Continue to bless us with the precious gift of Your loving providence.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SAM BROWNBACK 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, March 29, 2006.

To the Senate:

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

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I wish everyone a good morning as we start a very busy day in the Senate.

Yesterday, I think we defined a good glidepath to finishing the lobbying reform bill, after which we will return to the immigration issues.

Today, following our period of morning business, we will return to the consideration of the lobbying reform bill. Yesterday, we invoked cloture by a vote of 81 to 16, and therefore I believe we will be able to finish that bill at an early hour today. The order from last night provides that all amendments must be offered no later than 11 a.m. this morning. The bill managers will be here and will be able to call up amendments if Members are unable to get to the floor by 11 o'clock. Therefore, at 11 o'clock this morning, we will be able to determine how many remaining amendments will require votes before we go to passage of the lobbying reform bill. We already have a time agreement with Senator FEINGOLD on his amendment relating to gifts, and we will vote on that issue prior to noon today.

Once we complete the lobbying reform bill, we will proceed to the border

control bill under the order entered yesterday. We will begin that bill for a period of debate first before we get into the amendment process. Many Senators have indicated that there is a desire to have opening statements before we begin to consider other immigration issues. Therefore, we have provided for that period of debate, and I encourage Members to take advantage of this opportunity today, this afternoon, or this evening.

Having said that, we will be voting today on a number of lobbying amendments as well as passage of the lobbying reform bill. I also encourage Senators to keep their schedules open for the remainder of the week as we get into the border control bill and related issues. We are providing ample time for the consideration of this bill, and we need to take advantage of each day between now and the recess for this bill.

It was now over 3 months ago that we said we would spend these 2 weeks on the issues of border control, of interior enforcement, and issues such as the temporary worker issues. We will be doing that over these 2 weeks. I believe we can complete that over the course of these 2 weeks. I do encourage our colleagues to get involved early, both in the debate and taking advantage of the time we are providing beginning today, tonight, and every day and every night between now and the next recess.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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



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