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No. 2

## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 31, 2006, at noon.

## Senate

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2006

The Senate met at 10 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.

Eternal and ever blessed God, whose name is love, put Your love in our hearts. Teach us to love so that our primary aim in life will be to please You. Teach us to love so that our passion for You will provide the foundation of our obedience. Teach us to love so that worship will not be a duty but a delight. Teach all of us to love so that our greatest fear will be to disappoint You.

Teach our lawmakers to love so that they will always be quick to help and to forgive. Teach all of us to love so that hatred and bitterness will disappear from our hearts as we seek to be Your true followers.

We pray in Your loving 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, leadership time is reserved.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

### SCHEDULE

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, we will be in session for a very brief period this morning. In a few minutes, the President pro tempore will administer the oath of office to Senator-designate MENENDEZ. Following that swearing in, we will have a couple of housekeeping matters. Then we will adjourn for the day.

On behalf of the leader, I will have more to say on the schedule over the next week in the closing remarks.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have announced on this side that there will be no morning business, no speeches, other than Senator LAUTENBERG and Senator MENENDEZ to speak about this important day in soon-to-be Senator MENENDEZ's life. That is an agreement I have with Senator FRIST. Members desiring to speak on other issues will not be able to do that today.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, we will proceed at 10:30 with the swearing in of Senator-designate MENENDEZ, but we do have housekeeping matters to take up.

I ask unanimous consent when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Friday, January 20, for a pro forma session only and that Senators be permitted to introduce bills on that day until the hour of 11 a.m. I further ask consent that the Senate adjourn until Tuesday, January 24, at 10 a.m. for a pro forma session and that committees be permitted to file legislative and executive items until 5 p.m. that day.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask consent following the pro forma session on Tuesday, the Senate stand in adjournment until 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 25. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate then proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes.

The 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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Ms. MURKOWSKI. Under the order just entered, the Senate will return for regular business on Wednesday, January 25. On Tuesday, the Judiciary Committee should report the nomination of Samuel Alito to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. The leader has announced we will proceed to consider the nomination when it is available for floor debate and that will be on Wednesday. We will remain on the Alito nomination until we are able to vote on the confirmation. We hope to have an organized debate to allow all Members to speak. We will try to line up an order next week when we begin. The majority leader reiterates that Senators should be ready next week for this historic debate and that everyone should keep a flexible schedule so we can vote at the first available time.

Mr. REID. If the distinguished Senator will yield.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have received calls from a significant number of Senators. Senator FRIST is right, we will have a dignified debate. It will be organized. We will do whatever is appropriate according to who wants to speak. Most all Democratic Senators will want an opportunity to speak in regard to the nomination of Samuel Alito. We look forward to that sometime next week.

I also ask that following the swearing in of Congressman MENENDEZ, the only two speakers allowed in the Senate on this day are Senator MENENDEZ and Senator LAUTENBERG, the two Senators from New Jersey. This is in keeping with the agreement I have with Senator FRIST. I ask consent that be the case.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, so ordered.

#### LETTER OF RESIGNATION

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair lays before the Senate the letter of resignation of Senator Jon Corzine of New Jersey.

Without objection, the letter is deemed read and spread upon the Journal.

The letter follows.

U.S. SENATE,  
Washington, DC, January 13, 2006.  
Hon. RICHARD B. CHENEY,  
President of the U.S. Senate, U.S. Senate, The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I hereby give notice of my resignation of the office of the United States Senator from the State of New Jersey, effective 11:59 a.m. on January 17, 2006.

Sincerely,

JON S. CORZINE.

#### CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair now lays before the Senate the certificate of appointment of Senator-designate ROBERT MENENDEZ of the State of New Jersey.

Without objection, it will be placed on file and the certificate of appointment will be deemed to have been read. The certificate follows.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY,  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,  
Trenton, NJ, January 17, 2006.

#### CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

To: The President of the Senate of the United States

This is to certify that, pursuant to the power vested in me by the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of New Jersey, I, Jon S. Corzine, the governor of said State, do hereby appoint Robert Menendez a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States until the vacancy therein caused by my resignation from the Senate is filled by election as provided by law.

Witness: His excellency our governor, Jon S. Corzine, and our seal hereto affixed at Trenton this 17th day of January, in the year of our Lord 2006.

By the governor:

JON S. CORZINE,  
Governor.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator-designate will present himself at the desk and the Chair will administer the oath of office as required by the Constitution and prescribed by law.

The Senator-designate, ROBERT MENENDEZ, escorted by Mr. LAUTENBERG, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to him by the President pro tempore, and he subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

#### MAKING MINORITY PARTY ASSIGNMENTS TO COMMITTEES FOR THE 109TH CONGRESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a resolution at the desk. I ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COBURN). The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 348) making minority party assignments to certain Senate committees for the 109th Congress.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and there be no intervening action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 348) was agreed to as follows:

S. RES. 348

Resolved, that notwithstanding the provisions of Rule XXV, the following shall con-

stitute the minority party's membership on the following standing committees for the 109th Congress, or until their successors are chosen:

Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs: Mr. Sarbanes (Ranking Member), Mr. Dodd, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Reed, Mr. Schumer, Mr. Bayh, Mr. Carper, Ms. Stabenow, and Mr. Menendez.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Mr. Bingaman (Ranking Member), Mr. Akaka, Mr. Dorgan, Mr. Wyden, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Landrieu, Mrs. Feinstein, Ms. Cantwell, Mr. Salazar, and Mr. Menendez.

Special Committee on Aging: Mr. Kohl (Ranking Member), Mr. Jeffords, Mr. Wyden, Mrs. Lincoln, Mr. Bayh, Mr. Carper, Mr. Nelson of Florida, Mrs. Clinton, and Mr. Salazar.

Committee on the Budget: Mr. Conrad (Ranking Member), Mr. Sarbanes, Mrs. Murray, Mr. Wyden, Mr. Feingold, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Byrd, Mr. Nelson of Florida, Ms. Stabenow, and Mr. Menendez.

Select Committee on Ethics: Mr. Johnson (Vice Chairman), Mr. Pryor and Mr. Salazar.

Select Committee on Intelligence: Mr. Rockefeller (Vice Chairman), Mr. Levin, Mrs. Feinstein, Mr. Wyden, Mr. Bayh, Ms. Mikulski, and Mr. Feingold.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska is recognized.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SENATOR ROBERT MENENDEZ

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I thank the leadership for according me an opportunity to present my new colleague. All of us are going to be missing Jon Corzine, a dear friend and former colleague who served this body very well but responded to the call of duty when things in New Jersey needed a leading hand. Jon Corzine responded and took up the assignment.

In Senator Corzine's place, we are fortunate to be able to have a candidate of the skill and knowledge that Senator ROBERT MENENDEZ has.

BOB MENENDEZ is a typical American story. He was born in America of parents who had immigrated from Cuba. He has worked his way through the system very well. As a very young man—high school age—he challenged the mayor and the leadership of the community in which he lived in New Jersey and fought his way to making certain they were going to be cleaning up some of their bad habits in Union City, such that he had to at times wear a bulletproof vest when he was 17 years old. He, thusly, had a place in the political mainstream as a very young man.

He became mayor of Union City, NJ, and then served in our general assembly from 1987 until 1991 and in the New Jersey Senate—he has been through all of the steps to leadership—from 1991 to 1993. He then came to the U.S. Congress