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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the State of Virginia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, teach us the mystery of life. Help us to not be victims but victorious in the living of our days. Lead us to a place of understanding, in spite of sorrow and pain. Make us more than conquerors, because You love us.

Today instruct our lawmakers as they seek to do Your will. As they perform their daily tasks, guide their priorities. Show them Your truth so that they will be instruments of Your purposes. When their light of hope is threatened, renew them with faith in Your providence and power. Transform their lives from a hurried succession of days into a walk with You that brings enduring peace.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM WEBB 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. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 1, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JIM WEBB, a Senator from the State of Virginia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the prayer, the Pledge, and whatever remarks the two leaders make not count against morning business, that morning business be a full hour.

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following the period of morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill. Last week cloture was invoked on the substitute amendment. Approximately 200 amendments have been cleared or voted upon. There are lots of them still pending. Last week Senators LEVIN and WARNER worked their way through some of these. I don't know how many votes we will have this evening on germane amendments, but we will know before long. Any amendments that might be offered have to be germane and have to be timely filed. Currently pending is a first and second-degree amendment relating to contracting. Any votes today will begin around 5:30. It is too early to indicate how many votes will take place. Once action on DOD authorization has been concluded, it is my intention to have the Senate consider the

DOD appropriations bill, to be followed by the consideration of Commerce-Justice-Science. Then we have a circuit court judge and several district court judges we plan on working on this week.

We have a lot to do. Hopefully we can finish quickly. We have next week the work period at home. Because of our being here for the time we are, having the weeks sometimes longer than what we would like, I have a lot to do at home. I am sure all other 99 Senators have as well.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Mr. REID. Freedom of speech is one of the country's most cherished values. Nothing sets us farther apart from the countries and regimes we oppose than our belief that everyone's opinion matters—everyone's—and that everyone has a right to express it. That is why when we hear things on the radio and other places that are offensive, by and large we tolerate them. But last week Rush Limbaugh went way over the line. While I respect his right to say anything he likes, his unpatriotic comments cannot be ignored. During his show last Wednesday, Limbaugh was engaged in one of his typical rants. This one was unremarkable and indistinguishable from his usual dribble which has been steadily losing listeners for years, until he crossed that line by calling our men and women in uniform who oppose the war in Iraq "phony soldiers." This comment was so beyond the pale of decency we can't leave it alone. Yet he followed it up with denials and an attack on Congressman JACK MURTHA, who was a 37-year active member of the Marine Corps, a combat veteran.

We have been debating the Iraq war in the Senate and throughout the country, not for months but for years. There are good, patriotic Americans who favor the war and good, patriotic Americans who oppose President

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



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Bush's first getting us into war and the way he has handled the war. Neither party holds a patent on patriotism. I know all of my Republican colleagues would agree with this, or at least I hope so. Yet Rush Limbaugh took it upon himself to attack the courage and character of those fighting and dying for him and for all of us. Rush Limbaugh got himself a deferment from serving when he was a young man. He never served in uniform. He never saw a person in the extreme difficulty of maintaining peace in a foreign country engaged in civil war. He never saw a person in combat. Yet he thinks his opinion on the war is worth more than those who have been on the front lines. What is worse, Limbaugh's show is broadcast on Armed Forces Radio which means that thousands of troops overseas and veterans here at home were forced to hear this attack on their patriotism. Rush Limbaugh owes the men and women of our Armed Forces an apology.

This past Friday, many Democrats joined me in drafting a letter to the chief executive officer of Clear Channel, Mark Mays, that we will send out this week. Here is what we wrote:

Dear Mr. Mays, At the time we sign this letter, 3,801 American soldiers have been killed in Iraq, and another 27,936 have been wounded. 160,000 others awoke this morning on foreign sand, far from home, to face the danger and uncertainty of another day at war. Although Americans of goodwill debate the merits of this war, we can all agree that those who serve with such great courage deserve our deepest respect and gratitude. That is why Rush Limbaugh's recent characterization of troops who oppose the war as "phony soldiers" is such an outrage. Our troops are fighting and dying to bring to others the freedoms that many take for granted. It is unconscionable that Mr. Limbaugh would criticize them for exercising the fundamentally American right to free speech. Mr. Limbaugh has made outrageous remarks before, but this affront to our soldiers is beyond the pale. The military, like any community within the United States, includes members both for and against the war. Senior generals, such as General John Batiste and Paul Eaton, have come out against the war while others have publicly supported it. A December 2006 poll conducted by the Military Times found just 35 percent of service members approved of President Bush's handling of the war in Iraq, compared to 42 percent who disapproved. From this figure alone, it is clear that Mr. Limbaugh's insult is directed at thousands of American service members. Active and retired members of our armed forces have a unique perspective on the war and offer a valuable contribution to our national debate. In August, seven soldiers wrote an op-ed expressing their concern with the current strategy in Iraq. Tragically, since then, two of those seven soldiers have made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq. Thousands of active troops and veterans were subjected to Mr. Limbaugh's unpatriotic and indefensible comments on your broadcast. We trust you will agree that not a single one of our sons, daughters, neighbors and friends serving overseas is a "phony soldier." We call on you to publicly repudiate these comments that call into question their service and sacrifice and to ask Mr. Limbaugh to apologize for his comments.

Just as patriotism is the exclusive realm of neither party, taking a stand

against those who spew hate and impugn the integrity of our troops is a job that belongs to both parties. I can't help but wonder how my Republican colleagues would have reacted if the tables were turned—if a well-known Democratic radio personality had used the same insulting line of attack against troops who support the war. The letter I read will be available on the Senate floor all day. During the votes, after the votes, colleagues on both sides of the aisle will have every chance to add their names to it. I encourage all to do so. If we take the Republican side at their word that last week's vote on another controversial statement related to the war was truly about patriotism, not politics, then I have no doubt they will stand with us against Limbaugh's comments with equal fervor.

I am confident we will see Republicans join with us in overwhelming numbers. "Confident" is the wrong word. "Hopeful" is the right word. I am hopeful we will see Republicans join with us in overwhelming numbers. Anything less would be a double standard that has no place in the Senate.

I ask my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, to join together against this irresponsible, hateful, and unpatriotic attack by calling upon Rush Limbaugh to give our troops the apology they deserve. I hope all will sign this letter.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for 60 minutes, with the time equally divided between the majority and the Republicans, and with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Iowa.

NATIONAL YOUTH ANTIDRUG MEDIA CAMPAIGN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, as cochairman of the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control, I have had a distinct interest in the National Youth Antidrug Media Campaign and how we can improve its quality and improve its effectiveness. In 1998, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, with overwhelming bipartisan support from Congress, launched a historic initiative to encourage kids to stay drug free. That effort in 1998 built upon the success of former First Lady Nancy Reagan's "just say no" campaign. The National Youth Antidrug Media Campaign targets youths age 9 to 18. The campaign also targets parents and other adults

who might have influence over the choices young people make about drugs.

Research has clearly shown that if we can keep children free from drugs until the age of 20, chances are very slim that they will ever try or become addicted to drugs. Maintaining a coherent antidrug message begins early in adolescence and continues throughout the growing years. This is essential for educating and enabling our young people to reject illegal drugs. Through realistic portrayals, the media campaign is designed to show kids the harmful effects of drugs and the benefits of a drug-free lifestyle.

I wish to call my colleagues' attention to the poster behind me. This is one of those famous antidrug advertisements that maybe they remember from a long time ago. They might recall this famous advertisement known for its unforgettable slogan: "This is your brain; this is your brain on drugs." Created by the Partnership for a Drug Free America in 1987, it is widely recognized as one of the known influential ads of all time. While most of us have probably never seen an actual brain on drugs, this commercial helped to shape the view of an entire generation regarding the dangers of drugs.

The National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign is without a doubt the single most visible symbol of the Federal Government's commitment to youth drug prevention. These advertisements are an important source of information for kids and parents about the risks and dangers associated with illegal drugs. Sadly, though, we have come a long way from the cost and success of those early ads, such as the one you see on the easel.

In the 10 years prior to the creation of the media campaign in 1998, the Partnership for a Drug-free America was able to secure grants from various businesses, foundations, and agencies to create over 1,000 ads. Included in that number is the famous "this is your brain on drugs" ad which ran in 90 percent of America's households every day.

Between 1987 and 1998, national and local media outlets donated over \$2.3 billion worth of free advertising space. If you adjust that number for today's pricetag, that would be nearly \$3 billion worth of donated media time. Unfortunately, as drug use began to decline, then, as you might expect, so did the generous donations of free air time. By 1998, Congress decided—since it was not going to be free—to fund a paid media campaign employing the partnership's antidrug messages.

Since that time, the Federal Government has spent well over \$1.5 billion to create, to research, to produce, and to distribute ads to prevent teen drug use. Yet I fear we are continuing to spend precious antidrug dollars to fund increasingly mediocre ads that fail to effectively reach our Nation's youth. In other words, they are nothing like the brain being fried ad I told you about.