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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, March 5, 2007, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 2007

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHERROD BROWN, a Senator from the State of Ohio.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Holy One, who expresses Your love to us each day, shower us with Your mercy that we may rejoice and be glad. May the gift of Your presence be more than sufficient to meet the needs of our Senators. Lead them to Your truth and inspire them with Your love.

Lord, give the Members of this body the wisdom to depend on Your power and to stand firm as they meet the challenges of our time. Do for them far more than they can ask or imagine. As they strive to do Your will, teach them to say the right thing at the right time and to serve with faithfulness. Keep them humble and fill them with a spirit of gratitude. May they always be willing to acknowledge their total dependence upon You.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SHERROD BROWN 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, March 2, 2007.

To the Senate:

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

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we are going to immediately resume consideration of S. 4. At 10 a.m., there will be two rollcall votes, first with respect to the Sununu amendment regarding cross-border interoperability. The second vote is in respect to the Salazar amendment regarding rural policing. These will be the only votes today. Members are welcome to stay after the

votes and offer amendments and speak on amendments that are pending.

One amendment that has generated a lot of controversy within the Senate and outside of this body is the DeMint amendment. I hope Members will come and speak about it. As staff has talked, I have mentioned briefly to the Republican leader what we would like to do. Monday night, we will have several votes. We will have more than one vote at 5:30. What I would like to do is on Tuesday have McCaskill and DeMint in the morning. The only thing we have to work out is how much time has to be spent on the DeMint amendment prior to a vote. We hope Senators will come and talk about those matters this afternoon and Monday.

I repeat, Members have the opportunity this afternoon and Monday. We will come in at whatever time we think is appropriate. If we get word that Senators want to offer amendments, we can come in earlier rather than later so that Members may offer amendments and speak about them and so we can move to conclusion of this legislation.

Members have been previously informed that we would be voting on March 5. I am surprised that March is here already, but it is.

We have done well on this bill. I have been satisfied—I think everybody has been—with the demeanor of the debate. It has been very good.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 800

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 800 is at the desk and due for a second reading.

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



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The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the title of the bill for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 800) to amend the National Labor Relations Act to establish an efficient system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to provide for mandatory injunctions for unfair labor practices during organizing efforts, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

JOHN “PEDIE” MORTON

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the person about whom I am going to speak has never been on C-SPAN. Members of the public would not recognize him in any capacity. But he is a central part of the Senate family, helping make sure offices have whatever they need to function.

His name is John “Pedie” Morton. I have known him for all the time I have been in the Senate. He has been here almost 40 years, working to make the Senate a better place. His name is unfamiliar to the general public. He works behind the scenes in Capitol Facilities. He is a familiar face to those of us who walk the halls of the Capitol. We know him from his great smile, which is disarming. He always expresses warm greetings. Even though he cares a great deal about the Senate, I have to acknowledge that he likes the Redskins more than the Senate. That is his love, the Washington Redskins. After more than three decades of work, he will be missed.

Students learn in civics class about the hundred of us, but they don’t learn how many workers it takes to keep this body running. There are hundreds of men and women just like Pedie who help us do our jobs. While the American people recognize us, the hundred Senators, today I want to recognize Pedie and the multitude of colleagues with whom he shares responsibilities in making this place work so well.

There are people every day, seated in front of the Presiding Officer, doing things we don’t know how to do but they do to make this body function so that there is a CONGRESSIONAL RECORD every day and it is absolutely correct, the court reporters taking down every word we say. The police officers make sure the evil people who want to do harm to this beautiful building and the people in it are safe. Today, I recognize Pedie on behalf of all these people who do so much to make the Senate the wonderful institution it is and our country a better place.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

JOHN “PEDIE” MORTON

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I join the majority leader in commending Mr. Morton for his extraordinary service in the Senate. Not only does he love the Redskins, he loves to fish, too—two passions I share with him. I expect he will have more time for both in the coming years. I join with my good friend, the majority leader, in thanking him for his remarkable career in the Senate and for helping us in so many ways over the years.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to my distinguished colleague, the Republican leader, I don’t know how anyone could care more for athletic teams than he does for those in Kentucky. I am not sure he has a lot of time to share any of his affection for teams other than those in Kentucky because they are a passion of the distinguished Republican leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. I thank my friend, the majority leader.

VOTES AND AMENDMENTS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, with regard to the two votes we will have at 10, my understanding is both these amendments have been cleared on both sides. I know I can speak for the Senator from New Hampshire, Mr. SUNUNU, that he was prepared to take a rollcall vote.

With regard to moving forward on this legislation, I encourage Members on our side of the aisle who have amendments to come down, get them in the queue. We will have a number of amendments, as the majority leader has indicated, next week. The best way to proceed, if a Senator is on this side of the aisle and has an amendment, is to come on down and offer it and get it in the queue.

I yield the floor.

IMPROVING AMERICA’S SECURITY ACT OF 2007

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 4, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4) to make the United States more secure by implementing unfinished recommendations of the 9/11 Commission to fight the war on terror more effectively, to improve homeland security, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid amendment No. 275, in the nature of a substitute.

Sununu amendment No. 291 (to amendment No. 275), to ensure that the emergency communications and interoperability communications grant program does not exclude Internet Protocol-based interoperable solutions.

Sununu amendment No. 292 (to amendment No. 275), to expand the reporting requirement on cross border interoperability, and to prevent lengthy delays in the accessing frequencies and channels for public safety communication users and others.

Salazar/Lieberman modified amendment No. 290 (to amendment No. 275), to require a quadrennial homeland security review.

Salazar amendment No. 280 (to amendment No. 275), to create a Rural Policing Institute as part of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

DeMint amendment No. 314 (to amendment No. 275), to strike the provision that revises the personnel management practices of the Transportation Security Administration.

Lieberman amendment No. 315 (to amendment No. 275), to provide appeal rights and employee engagement mechanisms for passenger and property screeners.

McCaskill amendment No. 316 (to amendment No. 315), to provide appeal rights and employee engagement mechanisms for passenger and property screeners.

Dorgan/Conrad amendment No. 313 (to amendment No. 275), to require a report to Congress on the hunt for Osama Bin Laden, Ayman al-Zawahiri, and the leadership of al Qaeda.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Louisiana is recognized.

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 5 minutes to send a new amendment to the desk and to call up three amendments and for a very brief discussion.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is this 5 additional minutes or time to be counted against the Senator from Colorado?

Ms. LANDRIEU. I was under the impression I was going to be recognized first.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Colorado, Mr. SALAZAR, has time.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator LANDRIEU be yielded 5 minutes of the time allotted to me.

I ask unanimous consent that Senator LANDRIEU be permitted to move forward for 5 minutes, with 2½ minutes taken from our side and 2½ minutes taken from the other side, and following Senator LANDRIEU, Senator ALLARD from Colorado be permitted to lay down his amendment for up to 5 minutes, with 2½ minutes taken from our side and 2½ minutes from their side.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I appreciate the Senator from Colorado allowing me an opportunity to call my own amendment. The way I understand it now, we are going to give 2½ minutes to the Senator from Louisiana, and I will have 2½ minutes on this side; is that correct? How are we allocating time? I want to clarify.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I modify my unanimous consent request. I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Louisiana be allotted 5 minutes, 2½ minutes to come off of the majority side and 2½ from the minority side; then following her, up to 5 minutes for the Senator from Colorado, with 2½ minutes coming off the majority side and 2½ minutes off the minority side.

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