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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON TESTER, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray:

O God, who loves us throughout the seasons of our years, set our Senators today on a path where they will grow in wisdom and in kindness. Make them wise enough to remember the poor and needy in our land and kind enough to find creative ways of touching hurting lives.

Help them to be wise enough to forgive others as You have forgiven them and kind enough to find ways to bless those who despitely use them.

Lord, empower them to be wise enough to seek Your solutions to their complex problems and kind enough to express gratitude to You, the giver of every good and perfect gift.

Give them wisdom to find ways to bring peace out of conflict, light out of darkness, and hope out of despair. Then infuse them with a kindness that will motivate them to seek to serve others to the glory of Your Name.

In all their strivings, enable them to live as wise and kind ambassadors of Your purposes.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON TESTER 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 assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 20, 2007.

To the Senate:

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

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. TESTER 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. REID. Mr. President, this morning, the Senate will immediately resume consideration of the U.S. attorneys legislation, S. 214, and conclude the final 90 minutes of debate on this issue.

At approximately 11:30, there will be three rollcall votes to complete action on the bill: Votes on two amendments and then passage of the bill.

At the conclusion of ordering passage on the bill, the Senate will recess for our weekly work conferences.

Following the caucus lunch, we will begin consideration of the budget resolution. Yesterday, I was going to ask unanimous consent to begin at 2:15, but I was informed there might be a request for a rollcall vote on the motion to proceed. That is a nondebatable motion, so we will vote immediately at 2:15 on that matter.

As far as the Democrats' time on this matter, relating to U.S. attorneys, the allocation of time on this side will be Senator SCHUMER, 5 minutes; Senator MURRAY, 5 minutes; Senator CARDIN, 5 minutes; Senator KLOBUCHAR, 5 min-

utes; Senator FEINSTEIN, 5 minutes; and the balance of the time will be under the control of Senator LEAHY.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that be the case.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

THE BUDGET

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, let me say to my good friend, the majority leader, that I will be checking at noon to see if we can avoid the motion to proceed to the budget, but I have not been able to get that cleared yet. I hope that I will be able to.

I would also remind everyone, as the majority leader and I indicated yesterday, budget week is always challenging, with lots of votes and evening sessions. So I would encourage Members on our side, if they have amendments, to offer them early in the week to avoid having them caught up in the vote-arama which will occur, regrettably, at the end of the process.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would finally say the two managers of this bill, Senator CONRAD and Senator GREGG, have done this bill many times. They are friends, and they will do everything they can to cooperate with each other. I hope Members will cooperate with them.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

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



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