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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 10, 2007, at 2 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JULY 9, 2007

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God of our lives, we confess that we have often been too distracted by busyness to hear Your words of truth. Keep us from being pressed by the insignificant. Instead, help us to take time to listen to the whisper of Your spirit. As the tender tug of time reminds us of our beginning and our end, teach us to embrace Your truth which transcends life and death.

On this first day returning from recess, give our Senators strength for all they will encounter today. May they feel Your power keeping them from stumbling and slipping. Remind them that You are the final judge of their leadership and the only one they ultimately need to please. Use them for Your glory.

We pray in Your precious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE 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, July 9, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE 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, today, following any time utilized by the two leaders, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 3 o'clock, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two sides. At 3 p.m. today, the Senate will proceed to H.R. 1585, the Defense Department authorization bill. We all know how important this legislation is. The Senate will carefully and thoughtfully and thor-

oughly debate issues associated with our military servicemen at home and abroad. Senator BILL NELSON will be here to manage the bill for Chairman LEVIN, who will be in a hearing until later this afternoon. As I indicated prior to the recess, this period will be a very busy legislative period.

Members should be prepared for votes occurring whenever the Senate is in session unless I make an announcement to the contrary.

SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL AUTHORIZATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 263 submitted earlier today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 263) to authorize testimony and legal representation in the State of Iowa v. Chester Guinn, Brian David Terrell, Dixie Jenness Webb, Kathleen McQuillen, and Elton Lloyd Davis.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this resolution concerns a request for testimony and representation in criminal trespass actions in Iowa District Court for Polk County in Des Moines, IA. In this action, antiwar protestors have been charged with criminally trespassing in the Federal building housing Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY's Des Moines office on February 26, 2007, for refusing repeated requests to leave the premises. Trials

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



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on charges of trespass are scheduled to commence on July 9, 2007. Two members of the Senator's staff who had conversations with the defendant protestors during the charged events have been subpoenaed by the prosecution and the defense. Senator GRASSLEY would like to cooperate by providing testimony from these two members of his staff. This resolution would authorize those staff members to testify in connection with this action, with representation by the Senate Legal Counsel.

I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and any statements relating to this matter be printed in the RECORD.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 263) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 213

Whereas, in the cases of State of Iowa v. Chester Guinn (SMAC288541), Brian David Terrell (SMAC288544), Dixie Jenness Webb (SMAC288545), Kathleen McQuillen (SMAC288543), and Elton Lloyd Davis (SMAC288539), pending in Iowa District Court for Polk County in Des Moines, Iowa, testimony has been requested from Robert Renaud and Janice Goode, employees in the office of Senator Chuck Grassley;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §§288b(a) and 288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for testimony relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it Resolved that Robert Renaud and Janice Goode, are authorized to testify in the cases of State of Iowa v. Chester Guinn, Brian David Terrell, Dixie Jenness Webb, Kathleen McQuillen, and Elton Lloyd Davis, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

SEC. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Robert Renaud and Janice Goode in the actions referenced in section one of this resolution.

MEETING THE SENATE SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, it wasn't too many years ago that sessions of the Senate were much shorter than they are now. During the summertime, the months of July and August, people went home because it was so hot. They simply couldn't handle the heat in this building and this town. But that has changed now with air-conditioning.

We still traditionally take August as our break. We do it for good reason. There are a lot of things we have to do to catch up on work at home. Senators have to travel throughout their States to catch up on things. The State of Nevada, for example, is the seventh largest State area-wise in the country. Seventy percent of the people live in Las Vegas; 20 percent live in Reno. But the other 10 percent are entitled to representation in the Senate, as are the two metropolitan areas. In addition, we have important obligations around the world. August is set aside as a time when Members travel around the world to check assets our country has and obligations through treaties and other things.

The reason I mention that is we have a lot of work to do. This is a work period of 4 short weeks, and we hope it is 4 short weeks. It wasn't but a month ago when Members of this body and the House were criticizing the Iraqi Parliament for taking their summer vacation because they hadn't done the work they were supposed to do. The American people are looking at us—not the Iraqi Parliament, the American Congress—to make sure we also do our work. We have a schedule during this 4-week work period we have to meet. If we don't do that, the August recess period is going to be shorter. Everyone should understand that. I know I have come to the floor earlier in the year talking about the need for us to do different things, and it has worked out very well. We have worked only one weekend. We have spent a few nights but not too many because Members have, on most occasions—when it comes time to finish our work before a work period ends, we are able to complete the work. I hope that will continue. We have a lot to do.

I think this could be one of the most, if not the most, important work periods of the year. It was reported in the press today that we, the majority, have filed 42 cloture motions this year already. Why? Because everything we have had to do—motions to proceed, basically everything—the Republicans have had us go that route procedurally to try to invoke cloture to move forward. We have not always been successful, but most of the time we have because it was simply stalling when it came right down to it. On many occasions, the Republicans voted with us, but they still got their 30 hours to slow things down.

In spite of that, we have been able to accomplish a lot. We, of course, passed an increase in the minimum wage for the first time in 10 years. As a result of the supplemental appropriations bill the President gave us, we were forced into that legislation, not only the minimum wage bill but disaster relief which is 3 years overdue for ranchers and farmers. We were able to, for the first time over the President's objections, get extra money for homeland security. We got a billion dollars there. We were able to finally get money for

the gulf, \$7 billion. The President had gone there 22 times, but the money had never been forthcoming. We were able, in the supplemental appropriations bill, to force that in. We were also able this year to pass a budget, a good budget. We think it will set the pattern for what needs to be done this year.

We have had other accomplishments. We also have things we have to do. That is why this work period is so important. The Defense authorization bill is one thing. This gives us a chance to support our troops with a readiness amendment, which will be the first amendment up, which requires that active-duty troops have at least the same amount of time at home as the length of their previous tour overseas. This will also be our chance to force responsible action in Iraq that the President up to this point has refused.

We have had, during the week we have been gone, a number of Republicans of good will who have spoken out for the need to change policy in Iraq. I appreciate very much their stepping forward, as do the American people, Democrats and Republicans.

Second, we are going to do everything we can during this work period to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program which provides health insurance to 6 million children. SCHIP must be reauthorized before it expires. I hope we can all agree to this as important to keep the children healthy. We are also going to turn to the Higher Education Access Act, a bill that will help more Americans afford college by addressing the alarming rise in tuition costs. It could be and will be the most significant change in higher education since the GI Bill of Rights. It is going to change programs. It is going to take moneys used to pay people who provide these loans, who are getting, in the minds of many, outrageous profits from the money they give to young people to go to school, take that and put it into something that will really educate children.

Fourth, we are going to tackle appropriations bills. The first bill I want to do is Homeland Security. This bill strengthens airport, seaport, and water security, supports our first responders, and plugs security gaps that have been ignored for far too long.

Finally, we are going to send the 9/11 and ethics bills to conference. As I said during the last day we were here, no longer am I going to come here and hope that the good will of the Republicans will allow us to go to conference. We are going to finish these bills. If it means I have to file cloture to get conferences, that is what we will do. It is too bad because on the ethics bill, it is important that we do this. It is so important that we do ethics and lobbying reform to address the culture of corruption. This legislation passed the House and the Senate with minor differences. We should complete them. We almost got there the last week we were here, but at the last minute somebody