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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DANIEL K. AKAKA, a Senator from the State of Hawaii.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, our Father, when we are far from You, we are unhappy. Remove from our lives anything that would keep us from being close to You.

Today, may our Senators feel Your presence and abide in Your wisdom. Provide them with solutions to problems that have eluded the powers of human reason. Lord, make Your purposes clear to them so that they may run and not be weary. As they surrender themselves more completely to You, let the light of Your peace shine in their hearts. Make their thoughts and feelings what they ought to be as they strive to live worthy of Your love. Lord, watch over them and their loved ones, both now and in the years to come.

We pray in Your loving Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable DANIEL K. AKAKA 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, June 23, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL K. AKAKA, a Senator from the State of Hawaii, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. AKAKA 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, following the remarks, if any, from the two leaders, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 3221, the housing reform legislation. As has been announced earlier, there will be no rollcall votes today. The next vote will occur tomorrow morning around 11 a.m. That vote will be on a motion to invoke cloture on the Dodd-Shelby substitute with respect to the housing reform legislation. Senators will have until 11:30 a.m. tomorrow to file amendments to the substitute.

This week, we expect to turn to the consideration of the emergency supplemental appropriations bill and the FISA legislation, and, of course, we need to consider moving to the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act that Senators BAUCUS and GRASSLEY are negotiating.

Mr. President, in short, we have FISA, the supplemental, housing, and Medicare that we need to focus on. When we finish those this week, I think there will be an opportunity for us to leave. We do have to vote on a number

of judges whom we have indicated we would vote on, and we are going to try to do those tomorrow afternoon. We think that can be accomplished. Right after the caucus, we can start voting on those judges.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

AMERICAN HOUSING RESCUE AND FORECLOSURE PREVENTION ACT OF 2008

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 3221, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A message from the House of Representatives to accompany H.R. 3221, an act to provide needed housing reform and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid (for Dodd/Shelby) amendment No. 4983 (to the House amendment striking section 1 through title V and inserting certain language to the Senate amendment to the bill), of a perfecting nature.

Bond amendment No. 4987 (to amendment No. 4983), to enhance mortgage loan disclosure requirements with additional safeguards for adjustable rate mortgages with an initial fixed rate and loans that contain prepayment penalty.

Dole amendment No. 4984 (to amendment No. 4983), to improve the regulation of appraisal standards.

Sununu amendment No. 4999 (to amendment No. 4983), to amend the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 to exempt qualified public housing agencies from the requirement of preparing an annual public housing agency plan.

Kohl amendment No. 4988 (to amendment No. 4983), to protect the property and security of homeowners who are subject to foreclosure proceedings.

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

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



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