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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty God, in whose keeping are the destinies of people and nations, You have worked wonders on sea, land, and air. You rule forever and judge the universe from Your throne.

Lord, come into this Chamber and throughout this Senate and endue our fallible minds with Your higher wisdom. Give our Senators the greatness of soul to match the magnitude of our national concerns. Be their fortress in times of trouble. May the critical decisions first be formed in their inmost being before being made in the public forum. Redeem their failures, reward their integrity, transform their tasks into service for You, and crown this day with the benediction of Your peace.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN 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, 2008.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule 1, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CARDIN 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 leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the FISA legislation. There will be about 2 hours of debate prior to a series of votes; therefore, Senators should expect a series of up to five votes beginning about 11:15 or 11:30 today.

We have a series of extremely important votes today. Every one of these FISA votes is very important. Likely, most of them will not be very close. That is what I have been told by my staff, but I really don't know whether that is the case. But on these votes, everyone should be here on time. We are getting a little out of the habit of being here on time. If there is a close vote, the Republican leader knows that we hold that open to make sure a vote is not decided because someone is not here if they are in the area. But that is rarely the case. Of all the many votes we have here, there are not too many that are that close. So everyone today should understand that we are going to enforce the 15-minute rule and the 10-minute rule. I hope everyone will be here ready to vote when the time comes.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote sequence for amendments with respect to H.R. 6304 be as follows: Dodd, Specter, Bingaman; with

all other provisions of the previous order remaining in effect.

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

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 6331

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that upon disposition of H.R. 6304; that is, the FISA legislation, the motion to proceed to the motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the motion to proceed to H.R. 6331 be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be agreed to, and the time until 4 p.m. be for debate prior to a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed, with the time equally divided and controlled between the leaders or their designees; that at 4 p.m., with no intervening action or debate, the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture.

Before the Chair rules on my request, I would like to make a parliamentary inquiry with reference to an agreement of June 26 with respect to H.R. 6331. Am I correct that if cloture is invoked on the motion to proceed to H.R. 6331, all postcloture time is yielded back and the Senate will then vote on passage of the bill with no intervening action or debate?

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

Is there objection to the request of the majority leader? Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican 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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