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Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MICHAEL B. ENZI, a Senator from the State of Wyoming.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by Dr. Alan Keiran, Chief of Staff, Office of the Senate Chaplain.

PRAYER

The guest chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God our rock and our fortress, thank You for guarding our lives. Without the unfolding of Your loving providence, we would miss life's music. You set our feet on solid ground and deliver us from our enemies. You have kept us from sorrow and sighing, for we trust You in life's storms.

Today, empower our lawmakers to be instruments of Your will. Remind them that their times are in Your hands as You shield them in Your steadfast love. Give them serenity to accept what they cannot change and courage to change what they can.

Bless the people who labor with them to keep our Nation strong. Sustain them in their work and give them Your wisdom. And bless our Nation. Strengthen her walls with righteousness and surround her with Your peace. Protect our military with Your powerful hand.

We pray this in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MICHAEL B. ENZI 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. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 21, 2004.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL B. ENZI, a Senator from the State of Wyoming, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ENZI 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. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for 3 hours. The first hour will be equally divided between the majority and minority. The second 60 minutes will be under the control of the Democratic side of the aisle, and the majority will use the final 60 minutes.

Following this morning business period, the Senate will recess until 2:15 p.m. for the weekly policy luncheons.

This afternoon, the Senate will consider the legislative branch appropriations bill. The order provides for 1 hour of debate and a vote on passage of that legislation. Senators should, therefore, anticipate a rollcall vote later today.

This week the Senate can also expect to consider the Goss nomination, once

that nomination is available for full Senate consideration. We would like to do that as soon as it becomes available. It should be available shortly. So hopefully we can address that nomination tomorrow.

As mentioned yesterday, the Senate may also consider legislation which extends some of the expiring family tax provisions.

Finally, we will continue to work on agreements for some of the remaining appropriations measures. The Senate will consider those bills under short time limitations, if agreements can be reached.

GRAND OPENING OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I want to comment very briefly on something I mentioned in the last week, and that is the grand opening of the National Museum of the American Indian. The grand opening officially is occurring today, actually in a couple of hours. This marks a milestone in American and American Indian history.

Established by an act of Congress in 1989, the museum, which we can all see from the front of the Capitol, is a tribute to the extraordinary achievements and the contributions made by American Indian culture. I had the opportunity 2 nights ago to tour that museum. It is truly remarkable, unique, and unlike any other museum in the Smithsonian group in that the stories are told by participants of the culture.

There are great collections, as so many of the institutions have. It is a cultural experience that comes alive as one goes through this museum, starting on the fourth floor, and continuing to the third, second, and first floor. It is truly remarkable.

It is right here on the National Mall, as everyone in this body knows. It is a prominent symbol of the progress we have made in recognizing and, in many ways, reconciling our shared history.

• 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 celebration began informally yesterday but will continue over the course of the week. There are going to be about 600,000 people participating in the celebration from around the world.

As one looks out from the front of the Capitol steps, they see the platforms for singers, dancers, and storytellers, representing nearly 40 American Indian communities, performing over the course of the week.

The museum is fascinating, and I wanted to bring that to everybody's attention. Again, I know the Democratic leader and myself will be participating in the opening of those ceremonies today.

INTELLIGENCE REFORM

Mr. FRIST. Another quick update on our progress along reform in terms of our intelligence operations, both within the Senate and outside the Senate with regard to the executive branch. The markup in the Governmental Affairs Committee has begun, with the leadership of Senator COLLINS and Senator LIEBERMAN. Senator DASCHLE and I had directed that committee in late July to appropriately respond with legislation to the 9/11 Commission recommendations. The committee's legislation, as has been presented and is being marked up, does just that. I assume that process will go on over the course of the next several days. There will be amendments and modifications on issues such as the national intelligence director and how much authority will be given the national counterterrorism center. The bill tracks very closely with the plans and decisions that have been put forward by the 9/11 Commission, although we have learned a lot since even that Commission report has been written, and also with plans put forth by the White House. All of that is being considered by that committee.

Next week we will be bringing this to the Senate floor for a full debate. It has been a very thoughtful process. The 9/11 Commission report came out in late July. We in this body have gone nonstop through late July, August, and now September, building on the foundation of really 2 or 3 years of work where we have looked at reform and appropriate organizational reorganization.

As the Democratic leader and I mentioned, October 8 is when we will be leaving, and it would be our objective, with the will of the Senate, to be able to complete the legislation before that time.

The other arm that Senator DASCHLE and I addressed by establishing a vehicle through which it could be addressed is the whole issue of what we do inside this body in terms of organizational reorganization to oversee the intelligence operations by the executive branch and the 15 intelligence agencies. That task force has met several times, both at the staff level and at the Member level. I know they have more meetings planned for this week.

The goal would be for them to come up with specific recommendations for leadership to improve our oversight functions.

So a lot is going on. As we set out, the real focus of this month or this period of time since the recess and until October 8 is the safety and security of the American people. We are working in a bipartisan way to do just that.

One last thing, the Senate Intelligence Committee will favorably report out PORTER GOSS shortly and the entire Senate will be able to confirm him this week. As I mentioned in my opening remarks, it is important to do so. It only makes sense that we have the post of Director of Central Intelligence be filled at this important time. PORTER GOSS is a highly capable man and leader, with a strong background and a lot of experience in intelligence matters. He will be able to lead the intelligence community through this period of reform.

There is a lot going on today in Washington and on the Senate floor, with the appropriations process, with intelligence organization and reorganization. We have now a little over 2 weeks to complete a very full agenda but one that the American people deserve and on which we will deliver.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

INTELLIGENCE REFORM

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I will comment on the progress that the majority leader referenced with regard to both the Governmental Affairs Committee work as well as the task force. This is one of those, unfortunately, all too rare occurrences where there is real bipartisan partnership and participation. Both Senator COLLINS and Senator LIEBERMAN deserve great credit for bringing the committee to a point where they can begin the markup this morning. It is our expectation that we will address that important legislation next week. In fact, we have made a decision that on Thursday we will have a special caucus just to talk about the legislation. I hope we can work through that bill and complete it, as the majority leader has proposed.

Also, Senator REID and Senator MCCONNELL have done an outstanding job in narrowing the focus, as we look at ways with which to improve oversight. That, too, is on track. It would be my hope that we would complete our work on congressional reorganization as well before the end of this session. Given the progress they have made, I am optimistic about our prospects for doing exactly that.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Before I get into my leader time, I ask unanimous consent that during the

first hour of time allocated to the Democratic caucus that Senator KENNEDY be given the first 20 minutes, Senator HARKIN be given 10 minutes, and then Senator LINCOLN 15 minutes, Senator CONRAD 20 minutes, and Senator DAYTON 10 minutes in the second hour.

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

OPENING OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION'S NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, this is a happy and historic day for all Americans, and especially for the First Americans. Right now, about a dozen blocks from this Capitol, an estimated 15- to 20,000 Native Americans representing tribes from South Dakota to South America are beginning a grand procession down Pennsylvania Avenue. The procession is the largest gathering ever of American Indians in our Nation's Capital. As someone from South Dakota, proud homeland of the Great Sioux Nation, I can tell you, it is an incredibly beautiful sight.

The procession marks the beginning of a week-long festival in Washington celebrating the opening of the spectacular new National Museum of the American Indian. The new museum—part of the Smithsonian Institution—is America's only national museum dedicated to Native Americans. And it is the largest museum in the world dedicated to telling the story of indigenous people in their own authentic voices. Every detail reflects the views of Native people, from the text of the exhibits to the menu in the museum restaurant. The building itself was designed by the famed Native architect, Douglas Cardinal. Its curved exterior walls, made of rough-hewn limestone, suggest the ancient cliff dwellings of the American Southwest.

Inside those walls are 8,000 extraordinary artifacts representing more than 10,000 years of history from more than 1,000 indigenous communities from as far north as Alaska and as far south as Chile. The museum includes three permanent exhibits. "Our Universes" features the spiritual beliefs of native communities, including the Oglala Sioux Tribe. "Our Peoples" looks at historical events through native eyes. "Our Lives" focuses on native people today. There is also space for changing exhibits of artwork by contemporary Native artists, and large spaces for Native American ceremonies and performances. In this museum, Native people and communities are not anthropological oddities or historical footnotes. They are vibrant, living cultures.

I want to commend the museum's director, Dr. Richard West, a member of the Southern Cheyenne nation, and all of museum's dedicated staff and volunteers, who have worked so hard to make the dream a reality, including assistant curator Emil Her Many