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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

God moves in mysterious ways
His wonders to perform.
He plants His footsteps in the sea
And rides upon the storm.
His purposes will ripen fast,
Unfolding every hour.
[Leave to history what is past
And receive His mighty power.]
Blind unbelief is sure to err
And scan His work in vain.
God is His own interpreter,
And He will make it plain.—William
Cowper.

Dear God, we thank You for the progress being made in negotiations on the balanced budget. Keep us steady on the course. It is the set of the sail and not the gale that determines the way the ship will go. We pray for Your spirit to continue to guide the President and Vice President, our majority leader, and the Speaker of the House. Keep them open to You and each other. Give strength to those charged with hammering out the specifics of an emerging agreement. We trust You to bring this crucial process to a successful completion. There is no limit to what can be accomplished when we give You the glory. In the name of our Lord. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator DOLE, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, for the information of my colleagues, immediately we will begin consideration of Senate Resolution 199, regarding the Whitewater subpoena. That will start as soon as we can. There is no time

limit on the resolution; however, we hope we will be able to dispose of this resolution after a reasonable amount of debate.

Following the disposition of Senate Resolution 199, there are a number of possible items for consideration. We would like to complete action on House Joint Resolution 132. The Democratic leader objected to its consideration last night but indicated in a positive way that, if we could make one change and clear one other bill, we could probably pass that today. I assume there will be a request for a rollcall. It will have to go back to the House where I assume they would take the Senate amendment and send it on to the President.

A cloture vote could occur on the motion to proceed to Labor-HHS appropriations. It is my hope we will get a continuing resolution today from the House. I am not certain what the length would be, but it could go until Friday, or it could go until next Tuesday or Wednesday—probably until Friday.

We still have three appropriations bills: D.C. appropriations, foreign ops, and Labor-HHS, which we are unable to bring to the floor because of opposition on the other side.

So, there could be rollcall votes throughout the day. Let me indicate that it seems to me we ought to make a decision here that we stop the legislative business no later than Friday of this week. It is going to be difficult for those of us involved in budget negotiations if there is legislation every day in the next week. It is my hope we can complete action on a budget agreement Friday or Saturday of this week and that only the principals might have to return next week.

In any event, I ask staff and others to determine if that is a possibility, to say—of course, we are at a point now where any one Senator can object to anything and it will not come up unless you have unanimous consent or

unless it is privileged. So I hope we could take a look at that.

I would just say, one thing we have agreed to—I think it is fair to state this—is if we do reach an agreement on sort of the format, framework, and scheduling, there will not be press conferences. There will be a news blackout, unless there is an agreement at the end of each day to issue a joint press statement. I think that has been part of the problem. There have been so many press conferences, so many people reacting to other people that it makes it difficult to proceed. So, hopefully we can work that out.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 132

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KEMPTHORNE). The clerk will read a bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 132) affirming the budget resolution will be based on the most recent technical and economic assumptions of the Congressional Budget Office and shall achieve a balanced budget by fiscal year 2002 based on those assumptions.

Mr. DOLE. I object to further consideration at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HEFLIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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



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