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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 4, 1997, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1997

The Senate met at 9:30 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:

Holy God, show us Your high intent and keep us from ever being easily content. This is Your Nation; we are here to serve You. Just as Daniel Webster said that the greatest conviction of his life was that he was accountable to You, we press on with intentionality in the duties and deliberations of this day. We want to know what You desire in everything we do and say. Make us aware that You are the unseen guest at every meeting, the silent observer of all our actions, and the careful listener at every conversation. Heighten our awareness not only of Your presence but also of Your power. Give us courage to attempt what only You could help us achieve. Renew our enthusiasm, reinvigorate our vision, revitalize our patriotism, replenish our strength. In the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I would like to announce today's schedule. In a moment, the Senate will proceed to executive session to begin 30 minutes of

debate on the nomination of William Daley, to be Secretary of Commerce.

At the expiration of that debate time, the Senate will vote on the confirmation of that nomination. Therefore, all Senators should expect a rollcall vote this morning at approximately 10 a.m. Senator LOTT has announced that this vote will be the last rollcall vote of the week. However, the Senate may be asked to consider additional executive or legislative matters that can be cleared.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now go into executive session to consider the nomination of William M. Daley, to be Secretary of Commerce.

NOMINATION OF WILLIAM M. DALEY, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of William M. Daley, of Illinois, to be Secretary of Commerce.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will be 30 minutes for debate on this nomination to be equally divided between the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. MCCAIN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, soon the Senate will vote on the nomination of William Daley to be Secretary of the Department of Commerce. Yesterday, the Commerce Committee reported favorably Mr. Daley's nomination by a vote of 19 to 1. I hope the full Senate will also vote overwhelmingly for Mr. Daley.

The confirmation of nominees by the Senate is a duty prescribed by the Constitution. The advise-and-consent obligation given to the Senate in the Constitution is an extremely important task. It should not and must not be taken lightly. At the same time, I believe that it is the President's prerogative to appoint whomever he chooses to administration positions and that such nominees should only be opposed and defeated if there is clear and compelling evidence that such nominee is unfit or unable to serve the Nation. Such decision should be made only after exhaustive questioning of the nominee and much soul searching.

Mr. William Daley has been asked by the President to serve this Nation as Secretary of the Department of Commerce. Three major lines of questioning were asked by the committee:

What are Mr. Daley's qualifications to serve as Secretary? What are Mr. Daley's plans for the Department? And what are Mr. Daley's policies that would implement those plans?

Numerous questions regarding the Commerce Department have been asked of the nominee. He has either fully answered the questions or has

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



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