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Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m., and was called to order by the Honorable WILLIAM H. FRIST, a Senator from the State of Tennessee, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,
President pro tempore.

PRAYER

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

Almighty God, nothing is impossible for You. You have all power. Nothing happens without Your knowledge and Your permission. You will what is best for us as individuals and as a nation. You desire to bless us with the wisdom and discernment we need to solve our problems. And yet, we have learned that You wait for us to ask for Your help. By Your providence You have placed the Senators in positions of great authority not because of their human adequacy, but because they are willing to be available to You, attentive to You, and accountable to You. Together, with one mind and heart, we intercede for one another across party lines and ideological differences. We know that if we trust You, You will be on time and in time to help us in the crucial discussions and decisions. Give us the courage to put the need of the Nation first above political advantages. You have promised that if we pray with complete trust in You, You will intervene to answer our prayers. In the name of Him who is the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

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. THURMOND].

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 6, 1997.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable WILLIAM H. FRIST, a Senator from the State of Tennessee, to perform the duties of the Chair.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12 noon. At 12 o'clock, the Senate will resume consideration of Senate Joint Resolution 1, the constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget. I understand an amendment will be offered this morning or in the early afternoon to that amendment, by a Member of the other side of the aisle. I do not have the details of that amendment at this time, but I hope that we may debate it and dispose of it in a reasonable timeframe early this afternoon.

Also, as a reminder, a consent agreement was reached today which limits debate to 30 minutes equally divided on the nomination of Rodney Slater to be Secretary of Transportation. It is possible we may proceed to that nomination this afternoon, and all Senators will be notified accordingly if we schedule that vote. We hope that will be done and I intend to do so, but I am still working at getting final clearance.

I remind my colleagues the Senate will be in recess today from 3 o'clock to 4 o'clock to accommodate a conference meeting this afternoon. Once again, Senators may expect votes today on an amendment to Senate Joint Resolution 1, the balanced budget amendment resolution, as well as a possible vote on a nomination.

I thank my colleagues and yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 12 noon with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

Under the previous order, the Senator from Alaska [Mr. STEVENS] is recognized to speak for up to 10 minutes.

Mr. STEVENS. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. STEVENS pertaining to the introduction of S. 281 and S. 282 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. STEVENS. I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. LAUTENBERG addressed the Chair.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Is 5 minutes the time that is available under morning business?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Is that the expiration of morning business?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business ends at 12 o'clock.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. May I further ask if the time is already accounted or distributed in such a way?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There are a number of Senators under the previous order who are to be recognized for 10- to 15-minute intervals and they are not in the room. The

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



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