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## Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by Rabbi Joshua O. Haberman, Washington Hebrew Congregation, Washington, DC.

### PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Rabbi Joshua O. Haberman, Washington Hebrew Congregation, offered the following prayer:

Oh God, Creator of all, we turn to Thee for we are ever in need of Thy help. Grant us the vision to see light in Thy light so that we might seek the good of our Nation in conformity with Thy laws of justice.

May our personal conduct and our work as legislators be prompted by righteousness and compassion and bear fruit in goodness and peace. May what we do enhance the well-being of all citizens, diminish the evils that beset us and enlarge our Nation's virtues.

O, Thou who didst create order out of chaos, help us create order in the lives and relations of human beings so that all might dwell in safety and none make them afraid. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

### SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today, the Senate will be in a period of morning business to allow a number of Senators to introduce legislation and make statements. I understand the Rules Committee is scheduled to meet this afternoon to begin the markup of the Governmental Affairs Committee funding resolution. It is my hope that there will be an agreement reached on this for the consideration of the funding resolution. If an agreement is reached, the Senate may debate the resolution on Friday and on Monday, and, hope-

fully, complete action on the resolution early next week. It clearly, though, is our intent to take up the funding resolution for the Governmental Affairs Committee next week, hopefully earlier in the week, but at some point we clearly will want to bring it to a conclusion. We have had a lot of discussion, a lot of efforts to find a reasonable arrangement for the committee to go forward. I think we are close to accomplishing that.

Also, I might say that there had been some thought that we would begin a discussion today, debate, if you will, on legislation involving the independent counsel, and we have some legislation pending in that regard. But in my discussions with the Democratic leader yesterday, he indicated that he thought perhaps we could come to some bipartisan arrangement to deal with independent counsel in the Judiciary Committee. I had hoped the Judiciary Committee could act on that today. I understand that perhaps there was an objection lodged to going forward today, and therefore it may be a week before the Judiciary Committee can act on that.

But the Judiciary Committee, as I understand the independent counsel law, can act in a couple of ways. One, the full committee can act in a bipartisan way to begin a process of looking at whether or not an independent counsel is called for. Or a vote of the majority on the committee could also begin this process. We would like it to be bipartisan, and we will work to try to see if that can be accomplished. Since there was an indication that perhaps we could do that, I thought that the good-faith thing to do would be to make that effort in the Judiciary Committee before we begin debate on forcing that action here in the full Senate.

Mr. President, there are a number of military nominations that the Armed Services Committee reported on Tuesday of this week. I am hopeful the Senate will be able to confirm all or at

least most of those during today's session.

Also, the Energy Committee has reported out the Peña nomination this morning, and it is possible that the Senate could take action on the nomination sometime next week. I will be working with interested Senators to see what problems might exist, to see what time they need to address their concerns. It looks like we will not be able to get a vote on the Peña nomination today, but I intend to call it up next week, at the very latest the middle of the week.

As is also usually the case, I will notify our colleagues of the voting schedule as early as possible. I know they will be interested whether or not there will be votes this afternoon or tomorrow. We will get that information to all Senators as soon as we can work through some other scheduling issues with the minority.

I thank all Members for their cooperation and their attention. I yield the floor.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, not to extend beyond 1:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for 5 minutes.

Under the order, the Senator from Ohio [Mr. DEWINE] is recognized to speak for up to 20 minutes.

### DISASTERS

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, as we speak, the flooding continues in Ohio and Kentucky and Indiana and West Virginia. Our hearts and prayers go out

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



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