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Senate

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

PRAYER

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

Today, we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day. It is appropriate to share the Gaelic blessing and then pray one of St. Patrick's prayers.

May the road rise up to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun lie warm upon your face,
The rain fall softly on your fields,
And until we meet again
May the Lord hold you
In the hollow of His hand.

Gracious Lord, we remember the words with which St. Patrick began his days. "I arise today, through God's might to uphold me, God's wisdom to guide me, God's eye to look before me, God's ear to hear me, God's hand to guard me, God's way to lie before me and God's shield to protect me." In Your Holy Name. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today at 1 p.m., following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of Senate Joint Resolution 22, the call for an independent counsel resolution.

For the information of all Members, no rollcall votes will occur during today's session of the Senate, and the next rollcall vote will occur at approximately 2:45 on Tuesday. That rollcall vote will be on passage of Senate Joint Resolution 18, the Hollings resolution on a constitutional amendment for campaign expenditures.

Regarding the independent counsel resolution, under the previous order, amendments may be offered to that resolution beginning today at 3 p.m.

It is my hope that the Democratic leader and I will be able to reach an agreement as to when the Senate will complete action on Senate Joint Resolution 22—hopefully by tomorrow evening. All Members will be notified when an agreement is reached.

It is possible that the Senate will consider a resolution also regarding Mexico and their certification in the antidrug effort. But I presume that would come not later than Wednesday. Maybe we could even go to it on Tuesday. But right now it looks like it will be Wednesday before we get to that.

The Senate may also begin consideration this week of the nuclear waste legislation.

I will remind all Senators that this is the last week prior to the Easter recess period. I hope the Members will plan accordingly, as we wish to finish our business on time. It will take some cooperation this week to get through the matters we have pending.

We are also seeing if we can get a time agreement on one of the judicial appointments. We have not been able to do that yet. We will continue to work on it.

Mr. President, I observe the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 1 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each. Under the previous order, there will be 30 minutes under the control of the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. THOMAS]. The Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

Mr. THOMAS. I thank the Chair.

FREEDOM FROM GOVERNMENT COMPETITION ACT

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I have a couple of things I wanted to visit about this morning. The first one of the priorities that I and a number of people have for the 105th Congress is S. 314, the Freedom From Government Competition Act.

This is an effort, along with many other things, to seek to reduce the size of the central Government, which most people agree we should do. It is one of the reasons we try to have a balanced budget amendment, so that we can control the size of the growth of the Federal Government by our willingness to pay for it.

One of the other areas, of course, that we have been very interested in, and continue to be, is the idea of "devolution"—kind of a new word. It means move some of the functions down to State and local governments so that we do, in keeping with the Founding Fathers, keep the size of central Government relatively limited and do those things that are essential to be done on the national level, and there are many, and yet not do the things that could better be done either at the local level in government or, indeed, in the private sector. The private sector is what I want to talk about a little today.

In general, from the title, we are simply saying that we want to remove 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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