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Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 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:

Sovereign God, we submit our lives to Your authority. Fill our minds with clear convictions that You are in charge of our lives and our work today. We commit it all to You.

May this commitment result in a new, positive attitude that exudes joy and hope about what You are going to do today and in the future. We leave the results completely in Your hands. Our need is not to get control of our lives, but to commit our lives to Your control. You know what You are doing and will only what is best for us and our Nation.

There is nothing that can happen that You cannot use to deepen our relationship with You. So when success comes, help us to develop an attitude of gratitude. When difficulties arise, help us immediately turn to You and receive from You an attitude of fortitude.

We place our hands in Yours and ask You to lead us. Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I announce that today the Senate will resume consideration of Senate Joint Resolution 22, the independent counsel resolution. By previous order, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., the Senate will conclude debate on Senate Joint Resolution 22, the independent counsel resolution, and Senate Joint Resolution 23, the Leahy resolution. Following debate on these resolutions, Senators should anticipate stacked rollcall votes at approximately 11:30.

Following disposition of these resolutions, the Senate may proceed to either the certification of Mexico or the nomination of Merrick Garland. Additional votes are, therefore, possible during today's session following the stacked votes.

The majority leader has asked me to remind Senators that this is the last week prior to our adjournment for the 2-week Easter recess, so he would appreciate Senators continuing to cooperate and adjusting their schedules accordingly for the scheduling of legislation and votes.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—NOMINATION OF MERRICK B. GARLAND

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that at 3 o'clock today the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Merrick B. Garland, to be U.S. circuit judge, and for it to be considered under the following time agreement: 3 hours equally divided in the usual form. I further ask unanimous consent that immediately following the expiration or yielding back of the debate time, the Senate proceed to a vote on the confirmation of the nomination, and immediately following that vote, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative business.

It is my understanding this has been cleared on the Democratic side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGEL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If the Senator will suspend, under the previous order the leadership time is reserved.

APPOINTMENT OF AN INDEPENDENT COUNSEL TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS OF ILLEGAL FUNDRAISING

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, under the previous order, we now have an hour of debate equally divided, and I have been designated as the manager to control the time on this side. I do not see a colleague yet who will control the time on the other side.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to Senate Joint Resolution 22 for 1 hour, with 30 minutes under the control of the distinguished Senator from Utah, 20 minutes under the control of Senator LEAHY, and 10 minutes under the control of Senator BYRD.

The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 22) to express the sense of the Congress concerning the application by the Attorney General for the appointment of an independent counsel to investigate allegations of illegal fundraising in the 1996 Presidential election campaign.

The Senate resumed consideration of the joint resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, some general observations prior to getting into the details of this resolution, I think, are in order. As this matter has come before the Nation in the form of press reports, television commentary, newspaper analyses, et cetera, something that is very disturbing to me has happened. That is, a single cloak of suspicion regarding illegalities and improprieties has been cast over all aspects of anything relating to campaign financing, campaign fundraising, and campaign expenditures. Somehow, anything related to raising money or

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

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