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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].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, president of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews.

We are pleased to have you with us.

### PRAYER

Our Father in Heaven, we come before You this day and every day in awe, gratitude, praise, humility, and prayer. This, indeed, is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

O Lord, instill in our hearts a love for You and for all Your creation. May we be ever mindful that it is from You that we derive our strength, our wisdom, our hope, and our conviction.

May we be inspired by Your Word and reminded of Micah's admonition to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with the Lord our God. May we never avert our eyes from the pain and suffering of others.

O Lord, on this and every day, we seek Your guidance and direction. Watch over us and our leaders—indeed, the men and women in this room.

We pray for the peace of Jerusalem as Psalms 122:6 urges us to do, and indeed for peace among all people of all nations. So that, instead of finding swords and weapons we will find only plowshares and pruning forks. We, the people, look to You, O God and to you, our leaders, to bring that day of peace about.

May we be inspired to transcend our diversities and differences and be blessed from on high with the fulfillment of the ancient Biblical promise of Psalm 133, "How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." God bless you and always be with you. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

### WELCOME TO RABBI YECHIEL ECKSTEIN

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, first, on behalf of the Senate, I say welcome to Rabbi Yechiel Eckstein, president of the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, to the Senate. Thank you so much for your prayer this morning. Rabbi Eckstein is an outstanding spiritual leader, author, lecturer, and radio and television communicator. Chaplain Ogilvie has invited Rabbi Eckstein to lead a seder dinner for Senators and their spouses this next Tuesday evening, April 15, 1997, which should be a great opportunity. My wife and I attended last year and, as Methodists, we enjoyed it a great deal. We intend to be there again this year.

Rabbi, we thank you for your message and sharing with us some of the feelings of the heritage we share as Jews and Christians.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I would like to announce today's schedule on behalf of the majority leader. Today there will be a period of morning business until the hour of 12:30 this afternoon. At 12:30, the Senate will recess until the hour of 2:15 to allow for the weekly policy conferences to be held. When the Senate reconvenes at 2:15, we will resume debate on the motion to proceed on S. 104, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act legislation. Under the order, the time between 2:15 and 5:15 will be equally divided, with a vote occurring at 5:15 on invoking cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 104.

If cloture is invoked, the majority leader hopes that the Senate will be allowed to proceed to the consideration

of the bill in a reasonable time period. If cloture is not invoked, I remind all Senators that a second cloture motion was filed last night and therefore a second cloture vote would occur tomorrow. If that vote becomes necessary, all Members will be notified later today as to when they can expect that vote on Wednesday.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROBERTS). Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 12:30, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

Who seeks time?

Mr. THOMAS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

### TAXES

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, several of us have asked this morning for a half hour to talk about an item that is of particular interest now, and that is taxes. It is of particular interest because we are now close to April 15, when taxes are more real to us all than they are at some other times. We want to talk about taxes because they are part of the Republican agenda. We have talked, over the years, about the idea of allowing families to spend more of their own money, allowing businesses to be able to invest and create jobs in the private sector. I think it is appropriate to talk about taxes because it has been an area of controversy—the idea of whether or not we ought to have an effort at tax relief at the same time we seek to balance the budget.

Mr. President, I am here to tell you that having been in my home district in Wyoming over the past week, as most of us have, and having a series of town meetings, the issue that came up most often is: What are you going to do

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



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