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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, April 28, 1997, at 2 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 1997

The Senate met at 9:30 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:

God of peace, whose peace cannot be kept unless it is shared, we seek to receive Your peace and communicate peace to others throughout this day.

We confess anything that may be disturbing our peace with You as we begin this day. We know that if we want peace in our hearts, we cannot harbor resentment. We seek forgiveness for any negative criticism, gossip, or destructive innuendoes that we may have spoken. Forgive any way that we may have brought acrimony to our relationships instead of helping to bring peace into any misunderstandings among or between the people around us. You have shown us that being a reconciler is essential for a continued, sustained experience of Your peace. Most of all, we know that lasting peace is a result of Your indwelling spirit, Your presence in our minds and hearts.

Show us how to be communicators of the peace that passes all understanding, bringing healing reconciliation, deeper understanding, and open communication. In the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

Mr. ENZI. I thank the Chair.

SCHEDULE

Mr. ENZI. On behalf of the majority leader, I will announce the schedule for today's session.

This morning, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until the hour of 11:30 a.m. to accommodate a number of Senators who have requested time to speak. By a previous consent agreement, at 11:30 a.m., the Senate will begin consideration of S. 562, the reverse mortgage bill. It is the understanding of the leadership that no Senator will request a rollcall vote on passage. Therefore, Senators should not expect a rollcall vote to occur during today's session of the Senate.

Following disposition of S. 562, it is the intention of the majority leader to ask the Senate to begin consideration of S. 543, the volunteer protection bill. If there is an objection to proceeding to that bill, it may be necessary for the majority leader to move to proceed to S. 543 and file a cloture motion on the motion to proceed. That cloture vote would occur on Tuesday of next week, and therefore there would be no rollcall votes during Monday's session of the Senate. Consequently, Senators can expect the next rollcall vote to occur on Tuesday, April 29, at 2:15 p.m. As always, Senators will be notified as soon as any agreement is reached and the rollcall vote is scheduled.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

Mr. ASHCROFT addressed the Chair.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUTCHINSON). The Senate is now in a time for morning business.

The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

Mr. ASHCROFT. I thank the Chair.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN PREVENTION ACT

Mr. ASHCROFT. I rise to make brief remarks about an important topic. The topic is the way in which we control our deployment of the resources of the American people. That is just another way of saying it is about spending.

Over and over again, we come to the end of the fiscal year for the Federal Government and we are threatened with the absence of a spending plan. In the absence of a spending plan, we experience what are called Government shutdowns. It is at a time like that, when we have the potential for shutdown because we do not have any spending plan, that people begin to load up the budget with things they want. They know that the threat of a shutdown makes it more likely that things which could not pass muster on their own, which would not really be justified in the cold, hard light of reason and in the inspection and examination of normal debate, would be included.

This is one of the reasons the deficit has become so high; under the pressure of the deadline and potential of a Government shutdown people are able to get spending plans enacted which simply divert resources, waste resources,

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



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