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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, March 2, 1998, at 2 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1998

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:

Dear Father, we thank You for the Senate family. You have appointed us to care for one another. We claim the old Scots motto: "Nae above you, nae below you—always with you." We stand with one another as friends. We may have different titles but one calling: To glorify You as we serve our Nation. Bless the Senators with a fresh awareness of Your power.

Grant renewed strength to the Senators' staffs who serve with untiring dedication and unswerving loyalty. Uplift the strategic staffs of both cloak-rooms.

Inspire the pages during their time with us. Give them a vision of legislative process done to Your glory.

Grant your protection to the Capitol police and security people, the subway operators, the food service providers, the maintenance crews and the countless others who make the Senate family run smoothly. And we thank you for Don Corrigan, who is retiring today. Don has served for 20 years as an expert transcriber in the Office of the Official Reporters of Debates.

Give to all of the staff a sense of importance and enable all of them to feel esteemed. Thank you for the dignity and the privilege of work. Bless us all, as we reach out to one another with encouragement and affirmation. Through our Lord and Savior, Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

THE SENATE STAFF

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, first I would like to express my thanks to the Chaplain for his recognition and expression of appreciation by the Senate for all of those employees who actually make this institution work. The Senators come to the floor and do their jobs legislatively, but without all of our employees who do all the things that make the doors open and the lights come on, we could not get it done. Rather than wait until the end of the session and pass a resolution to say that, I thought I would say it at the beginning. Maybe it will encourage them to work even harder in the interim.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will be in a period for morning business until 10 a.m. Following that, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1173, the so-called ISTEPA legislation, which funds our Nation's surface transportation infrastructure. It is hoped that the Senate will be able to make good progress on this important legislation during today's session of the Senate. Therefore, Members with amendments to the legislation should contact the managers of the bill to schedule floor time.

In addition, we may consider executive or legislative business cleared for

floor action. I believe we cleared four items off the Executive Calendar last night. So, rollcall votes are still possible in today's session, but unless we see more activity than we saw yesterday afternoon, I don't know that we will get to a recorded vote. But we will have some announcement on that at the earliest possible time after I consult with the managers of the bill and the minority leader.

Let me say again, there have been a lot of speeches made on the floor, both last year and earlier this year over the past month, about how important this legislation is, how anxious Senators are to get on this legislation. I have a half dozen to a dozen letters on my desk from Senators saying, "Let's get started; this is so important."

Where are you? We need some amendments. Let's throw it up here on the wall. Let's get started. We are not going to be able to stay on this legislation indefinitely. At some point we are going to have to say OK, we are going to stay in at night, over the weekend, so we can finish this legislation and move on to NATO enlargement, the budget resolution, the Coverdell A-plus education bill, perhaps a supplemental which would provide funds for Bosnia, Iraq, IMF—in part or in whole. So, we have a lot of work to do. I have been saying that now for about a month, and class doesn't seem to be ready to go to work and take the tests. So, again, I plead with my colleagues, let's get some amendments started. I am expecting by late afternoon Monday, and certainly on Tuesday and Wednesday, we are going to be having amendments on a regular basis, and votes.

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



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