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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21, 1998, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 1998

The Senate met at 11 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:

Gracious God, in a world in which we hear so much about self-esteem, we are reoriented by a bracing word from Proverbs.

“Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”—Proverbs 3:3-6.

Father, it is Your esteem we long for most of all. Remind us of the high value You place on mercy and truth. We want to build our lives around Your priorities. Help us to base our lives on Your absolute truth. May we be as merciful in our empathy and care for others as You have been for us.

As we begin this new week, may the Senators renew their commitment to serve You and to seek Your esteem above all others. May You be the Audience of One whose approval is important.

Lord, we pray that You will comfort and encourage those who have suffered the damaging, shattering devastation from tornadoes in recent weeks. Today we ask for Your courage and strength for the people of Nashville, Tennessee. Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I hope all the Senators had a restful recess during the Easter period back in their States and are ready for a very active schedule in the next 5 weeks.

I commend those who have been in charge of changes in the Senate Chamber. I think it looks very good. I hope the Senators will appreciate the changes that have been made.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the Senate will be in a period for morning business until 1 p.m. in order for Senators to make statements and to introduce legislation. At 1 p.m. today, the Senate will begin consideration of the Coverdell education A+ bill under the provisions of the consent agreement of March 27, 1998. As previously announced, there will be no rollcall votes today, but it is hoped that Members will be available to offer their amendments to H.R. 2646, the Coverdell bill. As a reminder, the next rollcall vote will occur tomorrow morning at 10 a.m. on or in relation to the Gorton amendment to S. 414, the Ocean Shipping Reform Act.

Just to remind Senators, we did have debate on the Ocean Shipping Act on Friday when we went out for the Easter recess period, and we completed all the work except for the vote on the amendment and then, of course, final

passage after that, if that is necessary, and I presume it may not be.

Senators should expect further votes throughout Tuesday's session on or in relation to pending amendments to the Coverdell education bill.

In addition, it is hoped that during this week the Senate will be able to consider the NATO expansion treaty and the State Department reorganization conference report under the consent agreement of 6 hours.

I want to say again that there will be no rush to judgment on NATO enlargement. I want to make sure that Senators on both sides of the aisle and on both sides of the issue will have a chance to make their statements and point out their concerns or their reasons for support. So, if it is necessary to take that over into next week before we get to the conclusion of the NATO enlargement, we will certainly do that.

During the next 5 weeks, the Senate can be expected to consider the following items, and therefore Members can expect busy days with votes most every day that we are in session, including Mondays or Fridays, except for those where we have already indicated we will not have votes, and we will reconfirm those during the next 2 days so Senators will know for sure the Mondays or Fridays where there will not be recorded votes.

In addition to the items I mentioned, this week we also will take up, hopefully, with cooperation from both sides of the aisle, the IRS reform legislation; Department of Defense authorization; the budget conference report; supplemental appropriations conference report—perhaps even reports, depending

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



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