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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ERNEST F. HOLLINGS, a Senator from the State of South Carolina.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, our purpose is to glorify You by serving our Nation. We all want to express an energetic earnestness about our work this week. Help us to know what You want and then to want what we know; to say what we mean and mean what we say. Give us resoluteness and intentionality. Free us to listen to You so intently that we can speak with courage and boldness. Keep us in the battle for truth rather than ego-skirmishes over secondary issues.

You have told us that to whom much is given, much is required. Thank You that You also have taught us that of whom much is required, much shall be given. Lord, You require a great deal of the women and men of the Senate. Provide them with an extra measure of Your strength, wisdom, and discernment for the crucial work of this week. And this afternoon, we particularly want to pray for U.S. Capitol Police Security Aide Aliou Terry and his family, after the unexpected death of his daughter last week. Father, comfort them and bring them to Your supernatural peace. In Your all-powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ERNEST F. HOLLINGS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 6, 2002.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ERNEST F. HOLLINGS, a Senator from the State of South Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. HOLLINGS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this afternoon the Senate is going to resume consideration of the Andean Trade Act. There will be no rollcall votes today. Tomorrow, the Senate will begin consideration of the conference report on the farm bill, under a 12-hour time agreement—6 hours of debate tomorrow, 6 hours of debate on Wednesday—prior to a vote.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE EXPANSION ACT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 3009, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3009) to extend the Andean Trade Preference Act, to grant additional trade benefits under that Act, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Daschle amendment No. 3386, in the nature of a substitute.

Dorgan amendment No. 3387 (to amendment No. 3386), to ensure transparency of investor protection dispute resolution tribunals under the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

JUDGES AND JOBS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, there have been a lot of rumors around here in the Senate—and I hope this is just a rumor—but I have heard that the Senate minority, the Senate Republicans, are threatening to shut down the Senate on Thursday or some time this week. The reason given is that the President, this past Friday, talked about there being 11 vacancies in the circuit courts.

Now, that is interesting. I have spoken on the Senate floor for long periods of time, in effect, defending the Judiciary Committee because these same vacancies they cry about are vacancies they created. They would not fill the vacancies during the 8 years President Clinton was in office, and now they are complaining because there are vacancies.

As we have spoken about on a number of occasions, Chairman LEAHY has done his very best to move these along. In the Senate, we have been led by Senator DASCHLE, as majority leader, and the various Democratic chairmen for less than a year. During that period of time, we have had one Senate office building closed for months, we have had September 11, and lots of problems. But in spite of that, we have approved 52 judges already.

But if they do decide they want to interrupt this very busy schedule, I think

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



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