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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

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

Almighty God, strength for those who seek You, hope for those who trust You, courage for those who rely on You, peace for those who follow You, wisdom for those who humble themselves before You, and power for those who seek to glorify You, we begin this new day filled with awesome responsibilities and soul-sized issues and confess our need for You. We are irresistibly drawn into Your presence by the magnetism of Your love and by the magnitude of challenges we face. Our desire to know Your will is motivated by Your greater desire to help us.

We thank You for the men and women of this Senate. Bless them as they debate the resolution on partial birth abortion and reflect on the issues of advise and consent. Help them maintain a spirit of unity as they press on with honest, open discussion and come to conclusions which are best for our Nation and the world. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TED STEVENS 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will resume the

consideration of S. 3, the partial-birth abortion bill. It is my understanding Senator MURRAY will be prepared to offer an amendment this morning. The majority leader has stated it is his intention to finish this important legislation by the end of the week. Senators wishing to offer amendments to the bill are encouraged to notify the managers of their intent so that we can proceed to an orderly consideration of the amendments.

Under the previous unanimous consent agreement, at 11 a.m. today the Senate will return to the Estrada nomination and begin a discussion of the Senate's constitutional role of advise and consent. Members are encouraged to come to the Chamber and engage in this discussion.

The Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 p.m. for the weekly party lunches. Following the recess, the Senate will return to the consideration of the partial-birth abortion bill. Additional amendments are expected and therefore Members should anticipate votes this afternoon.

Lastly, I know it was the hope of the majority leader to schedule a vote on a district judge on the calendar this morning. We attempted to schedule a vote at 10:30. At this point, we understand there is an objection to setting the vote on Ralph Erickson of North Dakota to be a U.S. District Judge for the District of North Dakota. We will continue to and hopefully work out a unanimous consent agreement. We will certainly notify Members if we are able to succeed in getting a vote set sometime this morning.

I thank all Members.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MURKOWSKI). The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I say to the manager of this bill, first, we would probably agree to the judge without a vote. We are trying to run that through to find out if we would agree to the judge without a vote.

Secondly, we have a finite list of amendments we have received on our

side. We have run that through to the floor staff on the other side. We understand, rightfully so, that Senators want to see the amendments before there is an agreement on whether or not we could proceed on that basis. Yesterday, the majority leader indicated to me and to the Democratic leader that he wanted to finish this bill and could we cooperate and have a finite list of amendments. We have given those to the other side and we hope we can move forward.

We have had a number of our Members who wanted to bring up amendments that are not related to this issue and we have worked to have them not do that. So we hope those amendments could be reviewed quickly. We will try to get all the amendments. The first amendment Senator MURRAY is going to offer, we hope there will be agreement that there would be no second-degree amendments to that. She is not going to offer it until there is some agreement to that effect. We hope to get that done quickly. We just gave the Senator the amendment. We understand it needs to be looked over.

Mr. SANTORUM. Madam President, I have not had a chance to see the amendment, but I want to thank the leader for his willingness to come forward and offer a set of amendments. It is a reasonable set of amendments, from my estimation. We have not run a check on our side to see if there are any amendments. We are in the process of doing that. I do not anticipate very many, if any, at this point.

We are going to look at the amendment of Senator MURRAY. If we can, we will certainly allow that to go forward and we will certainly consider all the other amendments. If my colleagues can get them to us, I think we can fairly quickly enter into a unanimous consent agreement and move forward on this legislation. Again, I thank the Senator from Nevada for his willingness to come forward last night with this consent agreement. We are off to a

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



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