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Senate

The Senate met at 10:01 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN ENSIGN, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rev. Charles V. Antonicelli, of St. Joseph's Catholic Church on Capitol Hill.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we glorify Your Name as we ask You to hear our prayers. With the Psalmist we say, "To my words give ear, O Lord, give heed to my groaning. Attend to the sound of my cries, my King and my God.

"It is You whom I invoke, O Lord. In the morning You hear me; in the morning I offer You my prayer; watching and waiting."

In a special way today we pray for those killed in a senseless act of terror in Saudi Arabia yesterday. Grant us Your peace, Lord, which we so desperately desire.

Bless Your faithful servants today, Lord, as they come together in this Senate to deliberate and discern. Give them a spirit of compromise and consensus so that their decisions may benefit all in their care.

We ask this in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN ENSIGN 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. STEVENS).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 13, 2003.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN ENSIGN, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ENSIGN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business to allow speakers to discuss and introduce legislation or to speak on the topic of their choice. It had been our expectation that the amendment process on the jobs/growth bill would begin this morning; however, that will be delayed until later today.

Today, we do have a Senate delegation out of town attending the funeral of former Senator Russell Long, and that delegation will not return until early this evening. In addition, the Finance Committee will need to meet this evening to report out the reconciliation measure. The Senate will then immediately begin its consideration. This will allow us to begin to use time under the statutory time limit as well as begin the consideration of germane amendments this evening.

I say to my colleagues, we will have to work late each night this week. At the end of last week I mentioned it was going to be a very busy week, and due

to the delays which we are experiencing, it means we will be working late each night this week and through Friday.

Following morning business today, we will resume consideration of the energy bill. Pending to the energy bill is the bipartisan Frist-Daschle ethanol amendment. I understand there are additional speakers on that amendment.

Also, as I mentioned last week, there are a number of pressing issues that the Senate must address prior to the Memorial Day recess. First, we will finish the jobs/growth package this week. We have the statutory time interval of 20 hours of debate which will begin as soon as the Finance Committee reports out the reconciliation bill tonight.

Also, as I mentioned last week, this week the Senate will consider the bipartisan global HIV/AIDS legislation. This measure has broad support across both sides of the aisle, and it is my hope that we will be able to work out an agreement this morning or over the course of the day that will allow the Senate to pass this bill after a reasonable period of consideration later this week.

Third, we also have an order to consider the debt limit extension bill with a limited number of amendments. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have indicated they would not delay this bill once we bring it up. I hope it will not be necessary for all of the 12 Democratic amendments to be offered once we do bring up that bill. I believe everyone does understand the need for fiscal continuity and the importance of getting a debt limit bill to the President's desk before the Memorial Day recess.

As for next week, we will be considering the Department of Defense authorization. The chairman and the ranking member of the Armed Services Committee have done yeoman's work to get the Department of Defense authorization bill ready for floor action. We will proceed to full Senate consideration of that bill early next week.

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



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