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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHUCK HAGEL, a Senator from the State of Nebraska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Our guest Chaplain, Rabbi Arnold E. Resnicoff, will lead us in prayer.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Lord, who hears our prayers as this session now begins and before the leaders here debate the issues they confront and with which our country and our people struggle, we begin united, united with a prayer, a reminder that even as we disagree on one course of action or the next, we do so in pursuit of common prayers, common dreams—liberty, dignity, and freedom—that unite us all. We sometimes call this starting prayer an invocation, but it is not Your presence we invoke, for You are always with us. No matter where we are or where we go, as we soar on eagle's wings toward heaven, as we search the deepest reaches of the sea, or as we seek to balance right and responsibility through the actions taken here in the Halls of Congress, we know we find Your hand. Instead, it is awareness of Your presence that we call forth, that we invoke a reminder of a plan or dream in which we might play a part, a promise of a better world, better time, a time of peace and justice that we might help to build. May Your presence touch our lives, and even shape our words, so that we might find the wisdom and the courage to do our part to keep our dreams and prayers alive and help make those dreams and prayers come true. And may we say, Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHUCK HAGEL 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 (Mr. VOINOVICH). The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 19, 2003.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable GEORGE V. VOINOVICH, a Senator from the State of Ohio, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. VOINOVICH 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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. FRIST. This afternoon, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 2:30 p.m. At 2:30 the Senate will begin consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill. Under the order, amendments will not be in order to the bill until 5:30 today. Under the previous order, our first roll-call vote is scheduled for 5:30 this afternoon, but due to a number of meetings, I ask unanimous consent that the vote on the confirmation of the nomination of S. Maurice Hicks, Jr., to be a United States District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana be moved until 5 p.m. today.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, we have a number of speakers here now: Senator CONRAD wants to speak for 15 minutes, Senator DORGAN

for 15 minutes, and Senator HAGEL is in the Chamber and wishes to speak for 5 minutes. Could we extend morning business for 15 minutes equally divided?

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I am happy to extend it for 15 minutes. I have very few remarks to make, and then we will have the Senator go first.

Mr. REID. That should cover the time.

I ask that Senator CONRAD be recognized for 15 minutes, Senator DORGAN for 10 minutes, and Senator HAGEL for 5 minutes; you go first, then Senator CONRAD, and then Senator HAGEL.

Mr. FRIST. My remarks are going to be for 3 minutes; if I could have Senator HAGEL go first and then follow with—

Mr. REID. If he is speaking a short time, that will be fair.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Is there objection to moving the time for a vote?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Let me clarify, or add to that, because we are moving the time up. I understand a lot of people will be coming back this afternoon. Since we initially scheduled it for 5:30, we will extend that voting to, say, 6 p.m. So we will begin voting at 5 p.m. today, and the vote will be held open until 6 p.m. today since this is a change from Friday.

Following that vote, Members may offer amendments to the DOD authorization bill. The two managers will be encouraging any Senator who intends to offer an amendment to stay around after the vote to offer and debate their amendment. Any votes ordered on amendments that are debated this evening will be postponed to begin tomorrow morning. It is my hope that we will be able to complete Senate action on this bill early this 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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