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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SAM BROWBACK, a Senator from the State of Kansas.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, ADM Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

O God of peace, end the civil war that rages in our hearts.

Fill our God-shaped void with Your presence and bid our striving to cease.

Thank You for Your steadfast love and Your redemptive presence among us.

Remind us that each day we make decisions for which we are accountable to You.

Give us wisdom and courage to burn life's brief candle, always aware of Your saving presence.

Use our Senators today as instruments of Your peace.

We pray this in Your strong name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SAM BROWBACK 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 16, 2003.

To the Senate:

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

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we will have a period of morning business for 30 minutes. Following that 30-minute period, the Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 2330, the Burma sanctions legislation.

Under the order from last night, there will be 60 minutes for debate on the Burma bill with a vote on passage to occur later in a series of stacked votes. After that debate, we will resume consideration of the Defense appropriations bill for debate on the Dorgan amendment on war costs, to be followed by debate on the Bingaman amendment on detainees.

The Senate will then conduct a series of three rollcall votes on the two amendments and passage of the Burma bill. These votes are expected to begin shortly after 12 noon today. Additional amendments will be offered over the course of the day, and therefore rollcall votes will continue throughout the day and evening in order to complete action on the Defense appropriations bill.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business until the hour of 10 a.m., with the first 15 minutes under the control of the majority leader or his designee, and the next 15 minutes under the control of Senator MIKULSKI or her designee.

STALLED NOMINATIONS FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise this morning to address a very specific situation—a dire situation—that exists in the administration of justice for the people of Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio, and Michigan, the States that make up the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

I am joined this morning by other Senators from the Sixth Circuit and, most notably, we are joined on the Senate floor by many Members of the House of Representatives, representing the four States of the Sixth Circuit.

This morning, we will be meeting with Michigan's attorney general, Mike Cox, and several other Michigan leaders. They flew down today to make their case in the Senate, encouraging us to do our job and move forward with the stalled Michigan nominations to the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. They will be presenting the Senate leadership with a petition of thousands of Michigan citizens asking the Senate to end this delay on the so-called Michigan four.

This petition corresponds with a concurrent resolution which has been introduced in the Michigan Legislature, also asking the Senate to end the almost 2-year delay on the Michigan nominations.

The people and leaders of Michigan are not just speaking for themselves; they speak for the people from all of the States concerned and affected by this inexcusable delay. That includes the people of Tennessee, Kentucky, as well as Ohio.

That is why last week I took the rare, but not unprecedented, action of vowing for discharge of these four stalled nominations from the Judiciary Committee, because the delay of these nominations affects more than the State of Michigan, and the entire Sixth Circuit congressional delegation does have an interest on behalf of the people of the States and districts we represent.

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



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