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Senate

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PAT ROBERTS, a Senator from the State of Kansas.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O gracious God, thank You for the gift of this day, with its many opportunities and challenges. Thank You also for leading our lives. Lord, strengthen us to maximize today's possibilities. Save us from living too many days at one time. Keep us from crossing bridges before we reach them. Guide our Senators today. Hold their hands so that they can walk in confidence. Stay by our sides, and we shall fulfill Your purposes for our lives. We pray this in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable PAT ROBERTS 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, September 15, 2003.

To the Senate:

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

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished Senator from Kentucky is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, today, following the period of morning business, the Senate will resume debate on the energy and water appropriations bill. The two managers will be here beginning at 2:30 this afternoon, and Senator FEINSTEIN will offer the first amendment. It is hoped that if other Members have amendments to the legislation, they will be available to offer their amendments as well.

As the majority leader stated last week, there will be no rollcall votes during today's session. Any votes ordered will be held over until Tuesday's session of the Senate. Also, under a previous order, the first rollcall vote tomorrow will occur at around 10:30 a.m. That vote will be on the passage of S.J. Res. 17, which is the FCC rule disapproval resolution.

Also, I remind our colleagues that today the Senate will also debate a motion relative to going to conference with the House on the partial-birth abortion ban bill. That agreement calls for up to 8 hours of debate, and it is the understanding that 2 of those hours will be consumed today. Therefore, following the conclusion of any business on the energy and water bill today, the Senate will consider that motion for up to 2 hours.

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 2:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for up to 15 minutes in morning business.

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

RECENT EVENTS ON THE NATIONAL MALL

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I take a few minutes today to speak about recent events on The National Mall. The Mall, as Judge Buckley of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, has written, "is an area of particular significance in the life of the Capital and the Nation." It is a 2-mile green area that stretches from the Capitol in the east to the Lincoln Memorial in the west. It is, as another judge noted, "the site of monuments marking great figures and events in our Nation's history." But it is more than home to these enduring symbols of our nationhood. This judge went on to say: "Its grassy expanse provides areas for any number of recreational activities. . . ."

The National Mall has also been used, of course, for large-scale events.

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



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