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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. Barry C. Black, offered to following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God who presides over the universe, thank You for Your goodness and Your love. Today, make us instruments for grace. Help us to draw strength from each other, to be quick to listen and slow to speak. Teach us to refuse to let this world squeeze us into its mold, but make us ambassadors of transformation. Fill our Senators with power and wisdom so that Your name will be praised throughout the Earth. Strengthen our minds and bodies.

And, Lord, today we give You a special thanks for the lives and legacies of Paul and Sheila Wellstone. We pray this in Your holy name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore 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 MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, under the order last night, the Senate will conduct a period of morning business until 10 a.m. Following morning business, we will begin consideration of the foreign operations appropriations measure.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Therefore, I now ask unanimous consent that following morning business

today, the Senate begin consideration of H.R. 2800, the foreign operations appropriations bill. I further ask unanimous consent that other than the offering of a substitute, the bill be open for debate only during today's session.

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

Mr. FRIST. With this agreement in place, the two managers will be here at approximately 10 this morning to begin debate on this appropriations measure. There will be no rollcall votes during today's session. As a reminder, a cloture motion was filed on the nomination of Michael Leavett to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. That vote will occur at 5:30 on Monday. In addition to that vote on Monday, I would expect consideration of amendments to the foreign operations bill. I will have more to say on that later, after I have consulted with the manager of that bill, the distinguished majority whip.

I have also repeated our desire to complete a number of other important issues as we press on during these final weeks. The objection to begin consideration of the fair credit reporting bill was removed and we reached a consent to be able to proceed to that measure. Unfortunately, we have been unable to reach a consent for the consideration of the Healthy Forests legislation, but we will continue to work on and for that agreement.

The CARE Act continues to be held up from proceeding to conference.

The deadline for action on the Internet tax moratorium is fast approaching and we really need to expedite that bill.

I mentioned the other day the importance of the Protection of Lawful Commerce In Arms Act. This bill has over 54 cosponsors and should be considered by the Senate before we adjourn.

Nominations, in particular judicial nominations—those nominations which have been held up—do demand our attention and should be given their due process on the floor of the Senate.

I mention all of these items while we continue the ongoing appropriations process. There is much work to do and little time in which to do it. Thus, we must make very efficient use of the Senate's time. I hope Members will help the leadership on both sides of the aisle as we go forward and schedule these remaining weeks. These individual pieces of legislation, as well as the appropriations bills, as well as those bills that are in conference, must get done before we depart.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 1781

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand S. 1781 is at the desk and is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1781) to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to promulgate regulations for the reimportation of prescription drugs, and for other purposes.

Mr. FRIST. I object to further proceeding.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. It will be placed on the calendar for further action.

IRAQ PROGRESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I take just a couple of moments to comment on some of the activities in Iraq, especially in light of the donor conference that is underway as we speak. We know it is very important for the world to have a clear picture of the progress that is being made in Iraq today. My comments will really center, again very briefly, on that.

Not very many Americans have heard of Karada Street, I would wager. Karada Street is Baghdad's busiest commercial avenue, and something truly remarkable is happening there. Iraqis for the first time are enjoying the fruits of economic freedom. Not

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



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