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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 the following prayer:

Let us pray:

God of might and miracles, You are our protection and defense. You are our shelter and savior. You give daily victories to those who trust You. Because of You, our Nation continues to be blessed, for Your greatness is beyond understanding.

Thank You for Your kindness, for being slow to anger and full of constant love. Meet the needs of our Senators as they seek to serve humanity. Be near to them as they weigh important evidence and guide their thoughts.

Show us Your compassion and hear our prayers. Protect all who love Your name and fill us with Your joy. We pray this in Your merciful 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, this morning we will immediately resume consideration of the Internet tax moratorium bill. Last night, many colleagues remained in the Chamber to debate the underlying legislation and an amendment that we hope will be offered shortly—as a matter of fact, most of the same Senators are already here this morning and are prepared to resume this important debate. We will proceed with that shortly.

We do want to take a moment to comment on the schedule. Today, it is my expectation to have votes on the Internet tax moratorium and to finish that bill. The tax moratorium expired last week, and I believe it is important for us to work through any amendments and vote on passage of that bill today. With the cooperation of all Senators, we will be able to complete our work on this bill at an early hour this afternoon.

It would also be my intent to begin consideration of the Commerce-Justice-State appropriations bill as soon as possible. We must continue to make steady progress on these appropriation bills in order to complete our work by November 21. Senators can expect votes throughout the morning and afternoon as we work through the end of the Internet tax bill.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 2799

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time determined by the majority leader, after consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 2799, the Commerce-Justice-State appropriations bill.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I ask the majority leader—we have, of course, Senator HOLLINGS, the ranking member of the subcommittee, who has asked, at what time do you propose going to that, today or at some other time?

Mr. FRIST. The plan would be to go to it after we finish the Internet tax bill. So we would like to go to that bill today. If it is very late, of course, we will start early Monday morning.

Mr. REID. I respectfully say to my distinguished friend that we are not going to finish the Internet tax bill today. I guess we can finish it by taking it off the floor. On our side there are a significant number of amendments, and we know there are some on your side. Simply, I ask the leader what time does he propose, in effect, that we have had enough talk on the Internet tax bill, because it is not going to be completed today.

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



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