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Senate

The Senate met at 1 p.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.

Almighty God, clothed in dazzling splendor, we bow our hearts in Your presence. You have decreed the seas' boundaries and provided limits for the oceans' shores. We glorify Your Name because of Your wonderful works. Your greatness is beyond comprehension.

Lord, in this dangerous world, we sometimes forget that You control all things. After seeing the schemes of evil and the criminal conduct of hatred, we sometimes look away from You. Remind us that You are our Helper, our Defender, and our refuge. You are our hope for years to come.

Lord, thank You for the miracle of one more day, for friends who grow dearer through the passing years, and for all who lift their voices in prayer for this great land. Strengthen our Senators for today's challenges. Direct their thoughts and enable them to hear Your voice. 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

SAFE, ACCOUNTABLE, FLEXIBLE, AND EFFICIENT TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT OF 2003

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will re-

sume consideration of S. 1072, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1072) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

THANKING PRESIDENT AZNAR OF SPAIN

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the Senate and House were privileged to conduct a joint meeting—a wonderful meeting—to hear a powerful address by President Aznar of Spain. I again thank President Aznar, who left here just moments ago, for his visit and for his remarks today.

Spain, through this President, has been a true ally in every sense of the word. He did a wonderful job in articulating the great friendship that our two countries have demonstrated, as he said, over the last two administrations of this country.

SCHEDULE

Mr. President, this afternoon we have resumed consideration of S. 1072, the highway bill. We notified Senators last night that it is our intention to work to complete action on this bill before the February recess. We have made some progress on the bill thus far this week. The chairman modified the committee substitute yesterday and is ready to work with Senators on their amendments today. Rollcall votes should be anticipated during today's session as we begin the amendment process. I, once again, encourage Senators to come to the floor and to work with the bill managers to schedule floor time.

In addition to the highway bill amendments, the Senate may act on available judicial nominations today. We will alert all Members of these votes as they are scheduled.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mr. President, I have three unanimous consent requests for committees

to meet during today's session of the Senate. They all have been approved by the majority and minority leadership. I ask unanimous consent that these requests be agreed to, en bloc, and that these requests be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? The Senator from Florida.

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Reserving the right to object, I would like to ask a question. I was under the impression that I had an opportunity today to complete a series of statements I was making on intelligence reform, and that was to begin at 1 o'clock.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the managers are here. I know we had not locked in any time. I would like to defer to the managers for that because, as we had said before, we would like to proceed with the consideration of the bill itself.

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. If I could add to your unanimous consent request a time certain that I could present my third statement on intelligence reform; and Senator FEINSTEIN also wishes to make a statement on the same subject.

Mr. INHOFE. Yesterday, we had several occasions where we were trying to stay on the bill, and we kept saying: All right, one more person, one more person, one more person.

As manager of the bill, I am going to do everything I can parliamentarily to stay on the bill and not get into other subjects.

Mr. GRAHAM of Florida. Well then, I would have to object to the unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we will proceed with the regular order here then.

RICIN UPDATE

Mr. President, let me just say, in reference to the incident, the criminal investigation that is underway because of the attack here with ricin now 2

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



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