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Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon 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.

Eternal Spirit who dwells in contrite hearts, we marvel that You care for our small planet. Your gifts come generously each morning and Your providence encourages us. Make this a week when we cheer downtrodden spirits and bring a sense of community to lonely hearts. Help us during this week to do Your will on Earth and to glorify You by our words and actions.

Give heaven's peace to our Senators, who must labor with turbulent forces surrounding them. Deliver them from ungodly pride and ungenerous judgments. As they grapple with complex issues, shower them with Your wisdom and give them a determination to do what is right. Use each of us to advance Your kingdom of goodwill on Earth. We pray this in Your precious 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, today the Senate will begin debate on the first concurrent budget resolution for fiscal year 2005. Chairman NICKLES and Senator CONRAD are prepared to begin the

debate under the statutory 50-hour time limitation. Given the nature of the budget resolution and the lengthy debate, on Friday I announced that no rollcall votes would occur today. This afternoon Senators will come to the floor to speak in relation to the budget or the two managers may have amendments to consider over the course of the day. However, any votes ordered today will be delayed until tomorrow.

As we begin the week, I do want to put all of our Members on notice that this week will include lengthy sessions each day and into the evening. We have the 50-hour time limit. There will be references made to that time limit during the course of this afternoon and, indeed, every day. It is my hope we will be able to yield back some of the 50-hour time limit. I will be talking to the two managers to see if that will be possible.

In any event, the debate will be lengthy; it will be throughout the day and likely, as I mentioned, go into the evening.

We have a recess next week. We will finish this bill this week. I have already heard about a number of scheduling conflicts over the course of the week, into Saturday and Friday, and I will do everything possible to accommodate the request, but I need to make it absolutely clear, as I did last week, that we are going to finish the budget resolution this week. Therefore, I ask for all Members to adjust their schedules accordingly, especially on Friday.

I do want to comment on the process, the so-called vote-arama, that we come to at this point each and every year. As Members are aware, even after the 50 hours expire, Senators can offer amendments with no debate and they can demand votes, but I think if we look back at past experience almost all Senators will agree that this vote-arama, which in more recent times has come to characterize what follows the 50 hours, is absolutely not the best process for consideration of their amendments.

Thus, I encourage, in fact plead, with Members to approach the two managers of the resolution and see if they can limit the excessive number of votes needed at the end of the process.

I thank Senators NICKLES and CONRAD for their hard work in getting this budget resolution ready for floor action.

SENATOR BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I want to spend 2 minutes on the service of Senator BEN NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL and his announcement that he is not going to be running for election. For more than 20 years, he has been a tireless advocate and a faithful champion for the people of Colorado. Although I have had the opportunity to discuss with him at length his reasons and understand his reasons, I am saddened by his decision to retire from his well-earned and well-deserved post. The Senate will miss his plain-spoken humor, his astute and keen perspective, and his uncommon drive to improve the lives of those he represents.

He has a frank and straightforward approach to the job, and that has helped us and it has helped me as leader walk through some very difficult and contentious issues in a very quiet and dispassionate manner.

He is an American original. He served in the Air Force in Korea, was captain of the 1964 U.S. Olympic judo team. He has been a rancher, a jewelry designer, a horse trainer, and a public official. He is the only American Indian serving in the Senate. He carries the distinction of being 1 of 44 chiefs of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

Senator NIGHTHORSE CAMPBELL's broad experience and background has been invaluable to this body. His direct and honest presence will be greatly missed in the Senate. He has been a very good friend and a great Senator, and I wish the Senator from Colorado

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



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