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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray:

Merciful God, who surrendered Your powers to serve humanity, thank You for Your model of sacrifice that reminds us that it is better to give than to receive. Forgive us when our preoccupation with selfish dreams keeps us from surrendering to Your will. Help us to live so that we give You our best and keep us from those roads that lead to ruin. We pray for those in our world who must deal with the insanity of terrorism. Give them courage to meet these challenges.

Guide Your Senators today. Make nothing deter them from doing Your will. Give them faith to meet each crisis and wisdom for each decision. Help each of us to give ourselves completely to You, and give us peace through Him who is the Prince of Peace.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU 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, March 12, 2004.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business to allow the Senators to make statements and to introduce legislation.

As I announced last night, or early this morning, there will be no rollcall votes over the course of today. I do not anticipate a long session today. If Senators do wish to introduce legislation or make statements, I encourage them to do so this morning.

We were able to complete the budget resolution about 9 hours ago, at 1 in the morning, or shortly after that. I

thank all of my colleagues for their willingness to stay very late last night and into the early hours of the morning in order to complete our business.

Truthfully, it was a very busy week, but the fact we were able to pass this budget resolution with reconciliation, the fact we were able to do a couple judges early this morning and finish business on a number of nominations, I think should bring us all a great deal of satisfaction. It is very important for us in these busy times to continue to govern, and govern well. I think yesterday represented just that.

As I look over yesterday, we completed 19 rollcall votes throughout the day and evening. We had very few breaks. Chairman NICKLES and Ranking Member CONRAD did a tremendous job in processing the amendments and bringing the resolution to completion. I thank them for their efforts.

As a reminder, the next rollcall vote will occur on Tuesday, March 23. I will have more to say on the upcoming schedule at the close of business today.

Mr. President, I have several unanimous consent requests. Would the Democratic leader like to comment?

Mr. DASCHLE. No.

AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT TO AGREE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF MEXICO TO AMENDMENTS TO THE AGREEMENT CONCERNING A BORDER ENVIRONMENT COOPERATION COMMISSION AND NORTH AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 254 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will state the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

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



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