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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable NORM COLEMAN, a Senator from the State of Minnesota.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, source of the light that never dims and of the love that never fails, light of our life, empower us to live blameless and upright, so that we will have a future of peace. Thank You for both joys and sorrows, for they lead us nearer to You. Thank You also for the signs of Your presence in our world and for the coming day when Your will shall be done on Earth, even as it is done in Heaven. Remember our Senators. Strengthen and encourage them. Give them a faith that can overcome all obstacles. May they never cast away their confidence in You. Fill each of us with the joy and peace that comes from believing in You. We pray this in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable NORM COLEMAN 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 assistant journal clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 31, 2004.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable NORM COLEMAN, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. COLEMAN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning, the Senate will conduct a period of morning business until 10 a.m., with the first half of the time under the control of the majority leader and the second half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader.

At 10 a.m., the Senate will conduct 90 minutes of debate prior to appointing conferees with respect to the budget resolution. Following that action, the Senate will resume consideration of the welfare reauthorization bill.

Last night, we were compelled to file cloture on the committee substitute to that bill. That cloture vote will occur tomorrow. We hope cloture will be invoked to allow us to finish this very important piece of legislation, the welfare reauthorization bill. I do hope we will be able to move forward today with germane amendments to the welfare reauthorization bill and make progress over the course of the day. Rollcall votes are possible. Senators will be notified when the first vote is scheduled.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business until 10 a.m. The first half of the time will be under the control of the majority leader or his designee. The final time will be under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee.

The majority leader.

ACTION BY THE EUROPEAN UNION AND SENATE DEMOCRATS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, on leader time, I would like to just make a couple comments on two events that took place last Wednesday.

On that day, two organizations made decisions that were very disappointing to me. One of those organizations was the European Union and the other was the Senate Democrats. I was disappointed by the Senate Democrats because they chose to filibuster a very important piece of legislation that is critical to our jobs base, to our manufacturing jobs base. That bill is called "Jumpstart Our Business Strength, (JOBS) Act," which is an important bill. In fact, the title itself—"Jumpstart Our Business Strength"—underscores the importance of this manufacturing jobs bill.

I was also disappointed by the European Union's action to impose a record fine of \$610 million against a company, Microsoft, because it, frankly, demonstrates arrogance. I think—arrogance—requiring Microsoft to sell a version of Windows that we are all familiar with without the built-in ability to play audio files or video files.

I mention both of these incidents really almost in the same breath because they occurred on the very same day last week, and they are illustrative of the choice that is facing America and Americans today.

I released a statement last week and pointed out these overreaching attempts to register e-commerce. They

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



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