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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by guest Chaplain, Rev. Roy C. Smith of Shrewsbury North Temple, in Shrewsbury, PA.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our most precious Heavenly Father, we come to You this day with hearts full of thanksgiving for Your almighty grace and sweet mercy. We daily walk in Your loving kindness and see Your majesty displayed before us. Thank You for this great country we live in. All of us proudly declare our gratitude for being able to live in a land of freedom.

We lift this prayer to You for a special blessing upon our Senate this day. May they find comfort and joy in You. It is a privilege to be in service to our country and to our God. I am honored to stand in a room where history has been made, to give courage and fortitude for the days ahead. You promised if we would have the faith as the grain of a mustard seed we could accomplish all things. May Your might now abundantly flow to our Senators and all the staff that make each day a success.

May we never grow weary in well doing. Let us choose to see those around us and ourselves with hearts of love. In You, there is joy for the journey. In You, there is peace for the mind. In You, there is wisdom for decisions. In You, there is love to reach a hurting world. In You, there is faith for the days ahead. You truly are our all in all. We ask these things according to Your perfect and holy will. 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 assistant journal clerk read as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 1, 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE FOR APRIL FOOLS' DAY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning there will be a period of morning business for up to 60 minutes.

I want to have the attention, just very briefly, of the assistant Democratic leader.

We are going to have a period for morning business for 60 minutes. Under the previous unanimous consent agreement, we will finish the welfare reauthorization bill and allow that bill to go to conference in order to reach an accord with the House. That bill will be followed by the final passage of the FSC/ETI legislation. Upon completion

of the FSC/ETI bill, we will proceed to the nominations and agreement to the 22 judicial nominations that are available on the calendar. Votes will occur on the confirmation of those judges.

I thank all Members, especially the assistant Democrat leader, and other Members on their side of the aisle, for their cooperation in meeting these consent agreements.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, is this the unanimous consent agreement you are going to offer?

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this is my opening statement for April 1, and I will withdraw any request for those consent agreements.

It is an April 1 wish. It is what we should be doing. But we will proceed in the normal order.

Mr. REID. If the Senator will yield for a brief comment, every Thursday morning Senator ENSIGN and I hold a breakfast for Nevada constituents. Today we had a very large crowd. Probably there were 60 people there, plus our staffs. I opened it by calling on a doctor who just returned from the USS *Boxer*, from sea, introduced our Cherry Blossom Princess, and then I asked this gentleman to come up. I said: JOHN, you remember this thing we talked about—and gave him this certificate.

The man's name was a mixture between a Hungarian and a Hawaiian name—real long. And JOHN stumbled through that reading, but what a hero he was. You can tell JOHN was so flustered. When he stopped for a second I said, "April Fools'."

I have to say, it was probably the greatest April Fools' joke I have ever been involved in.

Senator DASCHLE just came on the floor. He, Senator FRIST, just offered what we would accomplish today. It was just an April Fools' joke, even though he meant it sincerely.

Mr. FRIST. I did mean it sincerely, and it included all, I say to the Democratic leader. It included welfare, FSC/

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



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