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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2004, at 2 p.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2004

The Senate met at 10:01 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable WAYNE ALLARD, a Senator from the State of Colorado.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rev. William Vanderbloemen, from Houston, TX.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Shall we pray.

Gracious God, we begin another day in this great country, and we seek You for help. We look for You to fulfill Your promises, for You have promised to be our guide. You promised that we will know Your voice, and that we will listen to it. So lead us to decisions that would make this Nation an even greater one. We pray for ears to hear that mighty voice, and the courage to follow the path to which it leads.

You promised to be our protector. You have said that You are a shield about us, the One who goes before us, and our rear guard. Guard us on every side and at every border. Be our protection. Watch over our troops in battle, our colleagues in the House, in the courts, our President, and the people of this great country. Defend them from every enemy, and grant the peace that only You can grant. At a word, You calmed the storms that raged on the sea. Use that same power, O God, to still the storms that rage throughout this world. May we be a beacon of that peace today.

Lord, You have promised to be our inspiration. You have said that You are like a morning dew that brings new life

to the buds of spring. On this spring day, rain down Your renewal on us. Stoke the flames of courage, vision, and life in us as leaders and in the hearts of our country men and women today. Be for us that higher power, that mystical calling, the Voice that moves us to become more than we currently are and more than we ever dreamed we could be.

When we think of the great task to which You have called us, all we can do is humbly ask for Your help. And we know that You will grant it because You are the God who keeps all of Your promises. Be who You have said You will be. Fulfill Your promises. Hear us in Your great Name we pray. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable WAYNE ALLARD 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 8, 2004.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable WAYNE ALLARD, a Senator from the State of Colorado, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ALLARD 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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with the first half under Republican control and the second half under Democratic control. Following morning business, at approximately 11 a.m., the Senate will begin consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 3108, the pension reform bill. Under an agreement reached last night, there will be up to 4 hours of debate on the conference report prior to a vote on its adoption. If all time is used, that vote will occur at approximately 3 p.m. today. The vote on the conference report will be the first vote of the day.

Following the disposition of the pension reform conference report, the Senate will resume consideration of the JOBS bill, the FSC/ETI bill. We have been working with the Democratic leadership to lock in a final list of amendments to the bill. We will be continuing that effort over the course of this morning.

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



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