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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. 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.

God of grace and God of mercy, You first loved us. You paid the debt for our transgressions that we might experience reconciliation. Lord, thank You for rescuing us from ourselves and for the power You give us daily to live victoriously.

You alone are worthy to receive power, riches, wisdom, might, honor, glory, and blessing. Nothing is accidental or incidental with You, for You are the author and finisher of our faith.

Be near our Senators today as they serve our Nation and freedom's cause. Reveal Yourself to them as they strive to make right decisions about complex issues. Empower each of us to move into the future with faith in the wisdom of Your providence.

Lord, bless our military people who daily sacrifice for freedom. We pray also for our enemies, as You have commanded us to do. Hasten the day when peace shall reign. We pray this in Your holy 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning, following the time set aside for the

leaders, the Senate will begin a period of morning business for up to 60 minutes. Today the Republican side will control the first 30 minutes, to be followed by 30 minutes under the control of the other side of the aisle.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume the motion to proceed to the asbestos bill. During the last 2 days Senators came to the floor and engaged in debate on the asbestos issue. I appreciate that. However, we should now proceed to the bill itself in order to work through various issues.

Last night, in order to move forward with the bill, I filed a cloture motion on the motion to proceed. That cloture vote will occur tomorrow. Again, this procedural vote is to allow us to begin the process of deliberating and deciding on the issues surrounding the issue of asbestos. It is a beginning of the process. Therefore, I hope cloture will indeed be invoked tomorrow morning.

In addition, Senators KYL and FEINSTEIN have been discussing the victims' rights constitutional amendment which is on the calendar. My hope is to consider that legislation following the asbestos bill. There was an objection to beginning that bill as well, and it became necessary to file a cloture motion on the motion to proceed to that joint resolution. Depending on the outcome of the asbestos cloture vote, the cloture vote on the victims' rights amendment may also occur tomorrow.

On both of these matters, the Senate should be able to deliberate on the underlying issues, and ultimately the Senate should work its will on each of these bills. We will continue to press for consideration of the asbestos legislation and the victims' rights amendment this week in order for the Senate to ultimately vote on these two important pieces of legislation.

The leadership, Republican and Democratic, will continue to discuss among themselves the asbestos bill and the best way to proceed over the next several days.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

VICTIMS' RIGHTS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, could the majority leader clarify the circumstances involving the victims' bill of rights? As I understand it, there have been some discussions, as the majority leader alluded, to a statutory approach to the victims' bill of rights. As I understand it, last night some agreement was reached. If that is the current situation, I am wondering whether it is still the intention of the majority leader to move a motion to proceed on the constitutional amendment.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the final decision will be made over the course of the day. If agreement has been reached—I know as of late last night, actually up until 6 o'clock, the decision was made to file the cloture motion. Discussions were still underway. If an agreement has been reached that is mutually agreeable to both sides, we will not proceed with the cloture motion. But rather than comment on that definitively now, I would like to talk to the parties involved.

Mr. DASCHLE. I thank the majority leader.

IRAQ AND THE NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I will take my leader time to comment on the privilege I had last week of spending some time with hundreds of South Dakota Guard members and their families.

I wanted to say a few words today about the selfless and courageous sacrifice of the South Dakota Guard and, indeed, all of our soldiers who are placing their lives on the line so that the

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



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