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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).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Pastor John Bengston, of All Saints Lutheran Church in Bowie, MD.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Lord God, Sovereign of the universe and giver of holy love to each person, receive our thanks for the gift of this day, the opportunity we have to be alive, mobile, well fed and clothed, and gathered with purpose. Help us, we humbly pray, that each of us live in concert with Your purpose of mercy and justice, love and grace. We also thank You for ordaining government in the human family so that the human community might live with order, dignity, respect, and care under Your design and will.

Thank You for those who serve in the Senate as elected Members and as staff. You have placed upon them all an awesome responsibility, so we ask You to give them comparable discernment, courage, and concern for their calling. Bless all who work within these walls that Your Spirit may inspire, guide, and prod each one to serve You first. Bless also those citizens who will visit the gallery today, observing the workings of Government and the deliberations of this body. Thank You for their interest, and may they be able to perceive Your hand at work in the discussions and decisions of the United States Senate.

This world faces tremendous challenges, O Lord of the nations. Please give to all, especially those who bear the responsibility of office here and elsewhere, the patience necessary to seek harmonious resolution of those challenges. Hear our prayer and give ear to our supplications. 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.

LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period of leader time under the standing order.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business for up to 90 minutes. The first 30 minutes will be under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee, the second 30 minutes will be controlled by this side of the aisle, and the final 30 will be divided between Senators MCCONNELL and FEINSTEIN.

Following that morning business period, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 150, the Internet access tax measure. There will be an additional hour for debate prior to the first of the scheduled cloture votes. The first vote will be on invoking cloture on the Daschle ethanol amendment to the Internet bill. If cloture fails, we will go immediately to a cloture vote on the Domenici energy package. Finally, if cloture has not been invoked to that point, the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote on the pending McCain substitute regarding the Internet tax moratorium.

Having said that, it has been my goal from the start to finish this Internet legislation. This week has been set aside for consideration of this matter. I

hope we can stay late and finish the bill.

Mr. President, I briefly wish to comment on the first two cloture votes, opening with the fact that I am a strong supporter of the ethanol provision that the Democratic leader has pulled out of the Energy bill and offered as an amendment to the original language of the Internet tax bill. In fact, I joined the minority leader in offering very similar language to the Energy bill when it was considered on the Senate floor last summer.

While I do support the renewable fuels standard as a matter of policy, there are many other important provisions included in the Energy bill that at this point I am not prepared to abandon.

We in the United States need a comprehensive national energy policy. We have gone on for way too long without that policy, and we see the consequences of that every day. We see it in our rising dependence on foreign oil. We see it in last summer's blackout in the Northeast and today's record high gas prices, and in skyrocketing natural gas prices, which are hurting farmers and manufacturers and consumers alike.

The slimmed-down Energy bill that Chairman DOMENICI has offered as a second-degree amendment addresses each of these issues. It lays out a balanced national energy policy that will lessen our reliance on foreign energy, thereby enhancing both our economic security as well as our national security. Senator DOMENICI's plan will help diversify our energy supply and encourage the use of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar energy and ethanol, all of which decreases our reliance on foreign oil and increases our own energy independence.

Moreover, it will facilitate the construction of the Alaska natural gas pipeline. This is perhaps the single most important thing we can do to increase our supply of natural gas, by

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



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