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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, Dr. H.D. McCarty, Brigadier General, USAF, Retired, of Fayetteville, AR.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

May we speak to Him for a moment.

Gentle and patient Father, on this National Day of Prayer, we thank You for the love and understanding and forgiveness You have for our imperfections and blunderings as Your people. We are grateful for this wondrous country whose roots are still deep enough in spiritual reality to acknowledge that vital prayer is critically necessary not only for our well-being, but for our survival.

My Dear Lord, grant afresh to the Members of this historic Chamber the increased power in mind, heart and will to overcome unnecessary conflicts, shallow contentions and abiding differences to such a degree that their honest tensions will bring the good and the best to our American people, both living in our homeland or serving throughout the world. Give our President, our leaders, our citizens and especially these Senators a depth of selflessness, a love of others and an expansion of vision that will enhance and fulfill dreams and goals of our gifted Founding Fathers. Let them seek and find Your path as earnestly today as our ancestors did in 1776 and 1787.

Finally, my Lord, teach us that prayer that is powerful is more than asking You for gifts, answers or promises fulfilled but, rather, the yielding of ourselves to truth. May our actions demonstrate that our passion for our country is not sourced in the conservative view of truth or the liberal view of truth but in the right view of truth. Give our Senators righteous, humble

and honest minds that the awesome task that is theirs will be effectively achieved for ourselves and our posterity. Guide them with foresight that when their labor here be ended Scripture could testify of them as it does of King David, "he led them with a pure heart, and guided them with skillful hands!" 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning, the Senate will conduct a period of morning business for up to 90 minutes, with the first 45 minutes under the control of the majority leader or his designee and the second 45 minutes under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the FSC/ETI JOBS bill.

We made significant progress on the bill thus far this week. I hope that will continue through today. Chairman GRASSLEY and Senator BAUCUS will be here to continue working through relevant amendments.

In addition, we expect to consider the Negro ponte nomination during today's

session. This is one of many important ambassadorial nominations on the Executive Calendar. I expect a vote on this nomination today. Therefore, roll-call votes will occur during today's session.

CONDEMNING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 497, S. Con. Res. 99.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 99) condemning the Government of the Republic of the Sudan for its participation and complicity in the attacks against innocent civilians in the impoverished Darfur region of western Sudan.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations with an amendment and an amendment to the preamble:

(Strike the parts shown in black brackets and insert the parts printed in italic.)

S. CON. RES. 99

【Whereas, since early 2003, a conflict between forces of the Government of the Republic of the Sudan, including militia forces backed by the Government, and rebel forces in the impoverished Darfur region of western Sudan has resulted in attacks by ground and air forces of the Government of Sudan against innocent civilians and undefended villages in the region;

【Whereas the militia forces backed by the Government of Sudan have also engaged in the use of rape as a weapon of war, the abduction of children, the destruction of food and water sources, and the deliberate and systematic manipulation and denial of humanitarian assistance for the people of the Darfur region;

【Whereas United Nations officials and non-governmental organizations have indicated that the humanitarian situation in 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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