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Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 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.

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your Name in all the Earth. You are the giver of everlasting life. Thank You that nothing can separate us from Your limitless love. Thank You that You are never disillusioned by us, although You know us better than we know ourselves. How great is Your love toward us, for You call us Your children. We praise You for Your tremendous power inside us that strengthens us to cope with life and to do Your will. Give our Senators today a faith that will not shrink, though pressed by many a foe. Make them more than conquerors of our Nation's challenges. Develop their gifts and enlarge their capacities that with confidence and joy they can do the work of freedom. Be at work in each of us, creating within our spirits both the desire and the power to do Your will. We pray this in Your loving 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 PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today, we will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour. The first half of that time

will be under the control of the majority leader, with the second half under the control of the minority side. Following that period, the Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 3104, the Afghanistan/Iraq campaign medals bill. Under the agreement, there will be 20 minutes for debate prior to a vote on passage of the bill. Senators can, therefore, expect the first vote of the day to occur sometime around 11 or 11:15 this morning.

Following that vote, we will resume the Defense authorization bill. We began that bill yesterday and made some progress by disposing of the Hutchison amendment regarding cadets and midshipmen. We will continue on that bill throughout the day with rollcall votes expected. I have mentioned our desire to finish the Defense bill this week, and I hope Members will cooperate with the managers of the bill so we may have an orderly consideration of amendments. Senators who intend to offer amendments should be contacting the chairman and ranking member at this time so they may begin scheduling amendments for this week.

Also, we have a cloture vote scheduled for 2:15 p.m. today on the nomination of Marcia Cooke to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Florida. There is still hope we can work out an understanding as to when we will vote on some of the 32 pending judicial nominations and, therefore, there is a chance the cloture vote may be vitiated. We will alert all Members if there is a change with that vote.

Also this week we will continue to look for a way to consider and complete the bioshield bill. I hope we can pass that important measure before we conclude our business this week. The highway bill is another one we need to get to conference, and we will find a way to do that if at all humanly possible this week. I am reminded daily of the importance of this bill and the necessity of going to conference. I was talking to our colleague from Missouri,

Senator BOND, who again underscores the importance of moving this bill forward as soon as possible.

It is going to be a very busy week. As we approach the recess, Senators can expect late nights, if necessary, to complete the legislative and executive items I have mentioned.

BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, on leader time, I want to briefly comment on the fact that yesterday was the 50th anniversary of the monumental Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court decision.

I had the wonderful opportunity of joining my colleagues from Kansas, Senators ROBERTS and BROWNBACK, in Topeka, KS yesterday around noon. As we stood in front of that two-story Monroe Elementary School, which was one of the four segregated schools in Topeka in 1954 which Black children were forced into, you couldn't help but appreciate how far indeed we have come, but also reflect on how far we must continue to go.

It was 50 years ago and 1 day, May 17, 1954, that the Supreme Court struck down the separate but equal doctrine that had been established around 60 years before by Plessy v. Ferguson. The Brown v. Board decision is considered by many to be one of the most, if not the most, important Supreme Court decisions of the last 100 years. It energized the civil rights movement and the victories that would follow, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964. It catalyzed a tectonic shift in our Nation's social consciousness.

The Brown v. Board story begins a little over 50 years ago in the city of Topeka, KS where we were yesterday. It was a third grader named Linda Brown who was barred from attending the neighborhood school because she was black. At that time she was 7 years old. She had to walk six blocks through a rail yard to meet her bus, and then

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



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