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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.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.

Merciful God, how precious is Your steadfast love. We take refuge in the shadow of Your wings. We thank You that You are present not only in green pastures and beside the still waters but in the valley of the shadow of death. Give us the wisdom to know You are near in sunshine and in storms.

Prepare our lawmakers to face the challenges of today with an awareness of Your willingness to lead and guide them. Remind them that You never give up Your pursuit of our hearts, and that Your love follows us into the darkest night of the soul.

Lord, let Your goodness and mercy follow us throughout the days of our earthly pilgrimage, until we dwell in Your house forever.

We pray this in Your wonderful 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT: A LEGACY FOR USERS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Inhofe amendment No. 605, to provide a complete substitute.

Dorgan amendment No. 652 (to amendment No. 605), to provide for the conduct of an investigation to determine whether market manipulation is contributing to higher gasoline prices.

Inhofe (for Ensign) amendment No. 636 (to amendment No. 605), to authorize the State of Nevada to continue construction of the U.S.-95 Project in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Allen/Ensign amendment No. 611 (to amendment No. 605), to modify the eligibility requirements for States to receive a grant under section 405 of title 49, United States Code.

Schumer amendment No. 674 (to amendment No. 605), to increase the transit pass and van pooling benefit to \$200.

Sessions modified amendment No. 646 (to amendment No. 605), to reduce funding for certain programs.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we return to the consideration of the highway bill. The managers are here to work through the remaining amendments this afternoon, and we will have votes on at least one amendment at 5:30, or sometime around 5:30. The specific time we will state shortly but at around 5:30 today. We have an agreement for finishing this bill tomorrow. Under the agreement, Senators may offer amendments today from the limited list we agreed to last week. We do hope most of these amendments will not require votes. There are a few remaining amendments that will need rollcall votes prior to passage. I once again thank the managers for their hard work, and I look forward to finishing the bill tomorrow so we can get it to conference as soon as possible.

LEBANON

Mr. President, in my leader remarks for the past week, I have come to the Senate floor to briefly comment on a recent trip to the Middle East. Over the April recess I had the privilege of traveling to Israel, the West Bank, Jordan, Egypt, and Lebanon. In each of these stops, I met with officials and community leaders. I also made a special point of meeting with opposition leaders as well.

With each conversation, I learned more about the challenges facing this complicated part of the world. I became convinced that despite the deep differences that divide them, each party is committed to and wants peace and prosperity. Each side knows that dialog is the only way forward.

Nowhere has this been on more astonishing display than in Lebanon. As we all witnessed, following the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in February, hundreds of thousands of Lebanese citizens took to the streets to peacefully protest foreign occupation and interference. The images on television were remarkable. Central Beirut was awash in this sea of flags of red, green, and white. Proudly defiant citizens passed out roses to the soldiers who had been sent in to contain them.

It was a triumphant moment for the Lebanese people and a turning point in their country's history. Our delegation had the opportunity to walk through Martyr Square, as that square is called, where, on March 14, there were hundreds of thousands of people who came forth to express the will of the people.

Syrian military and intelligence personnel had been stationed in Lebanon for decades and had consistently denied the Lebanese people the sovereignty and territorial integrity deserved by all independent nations. In addition, heavily armed militias, such as the Deborah terrorist group, have operated with virtual impunity in Lebanon and

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



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