

SENATE—Tuesday, January 19, 1999

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable GEORGE B. VOINOVICH, a Senator from the State of Ohio.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, our Rock of Ages in the sifting sands of our times, You are our stability and strength. You have placed a homing spirit in our hearts, making us restless to return to You. And now in communion with You, we receive what we need—energizing power for this new day, enthusiasm for the demanding schedule of this long day, extraordinary intellectual resiliency for the challenges of this crucial day.

Lord, bless the Senators with an assuring awareness of Your presence in the varied responsibilities they will assume today: the morning business, the party caucuses, the resumption of the impeachment trial, the State of the Union Address by the President. May their consistently repeated prayer in each changing circumstance, conversation, or conflict be: "Lord, use me. Speak through me. Accomplish Your will in my life and leadership." And so we commit this day to live intentionally in the inspiration of Your Spirit. Amen.

APPOINTMENT OF THE ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The bill clerk read as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 19, 1999.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable GEORGE B. VOINOVICH, a Senator from the State of Ohio, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,
President pro tempore.

Mr. VOINOVICH thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

Mr. NICKLES. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEDULE

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11:30 a.m. Following morning business the Senate will recess in order to accommodate the weekly party luncheons. The Senate will then reconvene at 1 p.m. this afternoon and immediately resume consideration of the articles of impeachment. Under the provisions of Senate Resolution 16 the White House will begin its opening arguments. At the conclusion of today's consideration of the articles of impeachment, the Senate will recess until 8:35 p.m. this evening and upon reconvening will proceed as a body to the House of Representatives for a joint session to receive a message from the President. I thank my colleagues for their attention.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business until the hour of 11:30, with 60 minutes under the control of the majority leader and with 60 minutes under the control of the Democratic leader, or their designees.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, as I understand it, there are 2 hours equally divided. I ask unanimous consent to designate myself as the Senator in charge of the 1 hour designated to the Democrats.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Thank you, Mr. President.

DEMOCRATIC LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, very shortly we will be joined by the minority leader, Senator DASCHLE, who will speak to the issue at hand. Of course, the issue is one that is positively dwarfed by the events that will occur in this Chamber later this evening. It is very difficult to stand here in the context of the impeachment trial and to speak of legislation, but I think we would be remiss in our responsibilities to the American people if we did not

realize that although the impeachment trial is an important constitutional responsibility, we have other responsibilities to the American people, as well.

The Democratic package, leadership package, of legislation speaks to specific issues which many families across America consider paramount in their lives. I think it is a very realistic and a very forward-looking approach to the problems which challenge us. It addresses the day-to-day issues that matter the most to the American people: Health care, education, income security, crime, child care, a safe and stable food supply, and other critical issues.

I am sorry to report that the last Congress—the last 2 years of Congress on Capitol Hill—was largely unproductive. The results of the last national election, I think, verified the fact that most people were disappointed by the outcome of the 105th Congress. There were so many opportunities missed in that Congress, so many chances to make real changes to improve life in America that were squandered. We failed to address patients' rights, we failed to reduce tobacco use by our children, we failed to reform the sorry state of campaign financing, and increase the minimum wage. In each instance, we were stymied by the other side of the aisle that simply did not want to deal with these issues.

It appears that the only issue of great moment—and I say that advisedly—was the decision to rename Washington National Airport after our former President, Ronald Reagan. Sadly, many of my colleagues in the Senate, once they had achieved that, decided to go straight to the airport and catch a plane and go home instead of sticking around and working on the issues for which we were called to Washington.

I think the American people have other things on their minds, and I think they are looking to us for leadership.

I am happy at this point to yield the floor to the Democratic leader, our minority leader in the U.S. Senate, who will speak to the agenda which we will try to forcefully address during this session of Congress.

THE OTHER IMPORTANT WORK THIS CONGRESS MUST DO: AN AGENDA TO HELP AMERICA'S WORKING FAMILIES

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, for 3 full days now, this Senate has been sitting as a court of impeachment. We are only the second Senate in the history