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SENATE—Monday, January 24, 2000

The 24th day of January being the day prescribed by H. Con. Res. 235 for the meeting of the second session of the 106th Congress, the Senate assembled in its Chamber at the Capitol at 12:03 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

PRAYER

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

Eternal God, before whom generations rise and pass away, to whom a thousand years are as yesterday, You have given us a new year, a new beginning, and a new opportunity to serve You. As we begin this year's work in the Senate, give us new hearts filled with the passion of ignited patriotism, minds filled with Your vision for America, and wills filled with desire to follow Your guidance.

We pray for the women and men of this Senate. Help them to claim Your promise through Jeremiah; "Call on me and I will show you great and mighty things which you do not know".—Jeremiah 33:3. Enable the Senators to humble themselves and confess their need for Your inspiration. Endow them with wisdom to see clearly Your solutions to the perplexities we face. The bigger the problems, the more of Your power is available. Make the Senators positive, courageous problem solvers. Give them an unprecedented sense of oneness and unity to lead this great Nation together. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM BUNNING, a Senator from the State of Kentucky, 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 able majority leader is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Chair.

APPRECIATION TO THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE AND THE CHAPLAIN

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thank you for your presence today and for being ready to go at the appointed hour.

Also, I express appreciation on behalf of the Senate for our Chaplain and for his wonderfully beautiful opening prayer. It is an inspiration to us.

WELCOME TO SENATORS AND STAFF

Mr. LOTT. I welcome back staff members and our colleagues in the Senate. I hope you have all had a period of time with your families and rest and health and recuperation, and regeneration, and that you are ready to go.

I see the Senator from California is ready and that other Senators are in the Chamber. I welcome you. We have several housekeeping matters to consider, but I do want to say again that we are glad to have you all back.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if Senators have statements they would like to make or legislation they would like to introduce, we will have a time for doing that today. I have talked to a number of Senators this morning, including my counterpart on the Democratic side, Senator DASCHLE, and everybody seems to be in good spirits and ready to go to work. We do have a lot of legislation that is pending, that has been reported out of committees and we hope to move to very quickly. We have a number of bills in conference that we hope to have started right away to move toward getting a conference report. I believe the Federal Aviation Administration conferees will meet, in fact, on Thursday to begin to do some work there. This week we have scheduled action on the bankruptcy reform bill. We spent a lot of time at the

end of the session last year on that bill—in fact, I think it was over a week. We went through over 100 amendments. We have narrowed the list down to a relatively small number. I visited with Senator DASCHLE about this legislation, and we will have some decision, some announcements we will make later on today about exactly how to proceed on bankruptcy reform.

In addition to that, we will have legislation that will be pending after today under rule XIV with regard to the situation of Elian Gonzalez, the young boy from Cuba. The legislation advocated by Senator MACK, Senator TORRICELLI, Senator GRAHAM, and others would grant citizenship to this young boy and therefore have the matter of his situation determined by a custody court proceeding rather than Immigration. When that would come up will depend on a number of other things, but it could be available as early as Wednesday or it could be acted on instead next week.

I remind my colleagues that there will be no rollcall votes during today's session. I am sure many Senators will be in the Chamber to make statements and introduce bills. We will be taking legislative action on Tuesday and Wednesday, with the potential of a number of votes occurring Tuesday afternoon and/or Wednesday. On Thursday, we will have a conference retreat for Republicans at the Library of Congress so we will not be in session during the day. As a reminder, the State of the Union Address will be that night, Thursday, January 27, at 9 p.m., and therefore the Senate will convene at 8:40 p.m. in order to proceed to the House of Representatives for that Address.

Finally, for the remainder of this week, I hope we will look at exactly when we will take up the nuclear waste legislation. I presume that some action will be taken either late this week or early next week which will guarantee a vote.

I appreciate my colleagues' attention and say again I look forward to working with Senators on both sides of the aisle.

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