

SENATE—Tuesday, April 4, 2000

The Senate met at 9:32 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

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

Dear Father, we need You. In Your presence we feel Your grace. We are assured that we are loved and forgiven. You will replenish our diminished strength with a fresh flow of energy and resiliency. The tightly wound springs of tension within us are released and unwind until there is profound peace inside. We relinquish our worries to You and the anxiety drains away. We take courage because You have taken hold of us. We spread out before You the challenges of the day ahead and see them in the proper perspective of Your power. We dedicate ourselves to do things Your way under Your sway. And now, Your joy that is so much more than happiness fills us and we press on to the work of the day with enthusiasm. It's great to be alive! Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable GEORGE V. VOINOVICH, a Senator from the State of Ohio, 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 ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I have an announcement. Today, the Senate will begin consideration of S. Con. Res. 101, the budget resolution. Amendments will be offered throughout the day. Therefore, Senators can expect rollcall votes occurring during today's session. Those Senators who intend to offer amendments should work with the chairman and ranking member on a time to offer and debate their amendments.

As a reminder, votes will occur throughout the week in an effort to complete action on the budget resolution no later than the Friday session of the Senate. If we are diligent, we might finish Friday night, although we do have a total of 50 hours of debate and

there are certain conditions that make that a little bit longer than 50 hours in terms of adding up time on the floor.

As a further reminder, the Senate will recess from 12:30 until 2:15 today to accommodate the weekly party conference luncheons.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VOINOVICH). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEARS 2001 THROUGH 2005

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of S. Con. Res. 101, which the clerk will report by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Con. Res. 101) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 2001 through 2005 and revising the budgetary levels for fiscal year 2000.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the presence and use of small electronic calculators be permitted on the floor of the Senate during consideration of the fiscal year 2001 concurrent budget resolution.

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

Who yields time?

Mr. DOMENICI. I have brief opening remarks, after which time I will be pleased to yield to either the minority whip or the ranking member.

First, a couple of observations. We are now on the budget resolution. It is now pending before the Senate. Before I summarize the resolution as reported by the Budget Committee last week, let me cover a couple of housekeeping or managerial items. For those Senators and staff here, and those who might be listening, I remind everyone that the procedure for considering a budget resolution in the Senate is unique compared to other legislation and other legislative items that we debate and amend on the floor.

First, a budget resolution is privileged. That means proceeding to its consideration as we have done this morning could not have been delayed by a Senator by filibuster or otherwise.

Second, the underlying law, the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act—not the resolution—effectively establishes the rules for consid-

ering this resolution. The first of the rules is that there is a time limit for considering a budget resolution. That time limit is 50 hours. Less time can always be taken. While it has never been used, a nondebatable motion to reduce debate time is always in order. The 50 hours does not count the time in the quorums immediately preceding a vote, nor does it count the actual voting time. Fifty hours is evenly divided between the sponsor and the opponents of the resolution.

An amendment or amendments in the first degree to the resolution are limited to 2 hours evenly divided between the mover of the amendment and its opponents. Additional time can be yielded off the overall resolution by the manager or the ranking member, or their designee, if such time is still available under the 50-hour rule. Amendments to amendments are limited to 1 hour, again, evenly divided between the mover and the opponent. As before, if overall time exists on the resolution, Members can add time to the debate on the second-degree amendment.

The next discussion is where it gets a little bit difficult. Senators who may want to amend this resolution should note there are very particular rules that apply. First, the committee-reported budget resolution forms the basis of germaneness.

There are four types of germane amendments: One, an amendment to strike language or numbers, which is germane per se; second, an amendment to change dates or numbers; third, an amendment adding sense of the Senate for matters within the jurisdiction of the Budget Committee; and fourth, an amendment that limits some power in the resolution. If not germane, it will take three-fifths of the Senators' affirmative votes to waive the point of order. If not, the amendment will fall.

I emphasize these procedures so Senators and their staffs will not be surprised if a germaneness point of order is raised on their amendment.

Later in this debate we will follow the rules the act laid out for us considering a budget resolution, and we will try to finish it in an orderly manner before the week is complete. I will briefly summarize the reported resolution before us today.

First, let me say this annual exercise further strengthens my resolve to bring to the floor changes to this process, to change it into a biennial budget and biennial appropriations process. But we are charged with reporting an annual budget, and until the law is