

## SENATE—Tuesday, January 30, 2001

The Senate met at 10:03 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BOB SMITH, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

### PRAYER

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

Omnipresent Lord God, there is no place we can go where You have not been there waiting for us; there is no relationship in which You have not been seeking to bless the people with whom we are involved; there is no task You have given us to do that You are not present to help us accomplish. We need not ask to come into Your presence; Your presence with us creates the desire to pray. You delight in guiding us to pray for what You are more ready to give than we may be prepared to ask.

You are here. We do not need to convince You to bless this Senate. You have shown us how much You love and care for the United States of America. You want the very best for this beloved Nation and have chosen the Senators through whom you want to work to accomplish Your plans. Help them to see themselves as Your agents. Bless them with Your power. Keep them fit physically, secure emotionally, and alert spiritually. So much depends on their trust in You and pursuit of Your guidance. May awe and wonder capture them as they realize all You have put at their disposal to ensure that they succeed. Thank You for the biblical assurance that You work all things together for those who love You, who are called according to Your purpose. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BOB SMITH lead 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.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will now read a communication to the Senate.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, January 30, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule 1, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BOB SMITH, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,  
President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### NOMINATION OF CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Gov. Christine Todd Whitman.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Christine Todd Whitman, of New Jersey, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be 30 minutes of debate on the Whitman nomination.

Who yields time?

The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the prior order entered be changed to allow the chairman of the committee, Senator SMITH, 15 minutes, and the ranking member, Senator REID, 15 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(Mr. REID assumed the Chair.)

### SCHEDULE

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, the Senate will now immediately begin consideration of the nomination of Governor Whitman's nomination to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Under the previous order, there will be 30 minutes for debate on the nomination. Following that debate, the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Gale Norton to be Secretary of the Interior.

There will be approximately 2 hours for closing debate with two consecutive votes scheduled to occur at 2:45 p.m. on the Norton nomination for Secretary of the Interior and the Whitman nomination for EPA Administrator.

I now ask unanimous consent that immediately following the votes, the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senator LOTT or his designee in control of the time until 3:45 p.m. and Senator DASCHLE in control of the following 20 minutes, beginning at 3:45 p.m.

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

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Following morning business, it is expected

the Senate will begin consideration of the Ashcroft nomination to be Attorney General of the United States.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

### NOMINATION

Mr. President, it is an honor for me to rise in strong support of the nomination of Governor Christine Todd Whitman to become the next Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. As chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, I have full confidence that she is the right person for this job and will be an outstanding leader. She has an incredible environmental record as the Governor of New Jersey. New Jersey has cleaner air; the number of days that her State violated the Federal 1-hour standard for ozone dropped from 45 in 1988 to only 4 last year.

It is a remarkable accomplishment. The water is cleaner. The fish population is thriving. New Jersey beaches are once again clean and open for enjoyment, beaches that I enjoyed, I might add, as a young man growing up in New Jersey. There was a brief hiatus where it was not even safe to walk those beaches. Annual beach closings dropped from 800 in 1988 to just 11 last year. That is 11 too many, but still it is an incredible task in development.

The National Resources Defense Council has praised New Jersey for having the most comprehensive beach monitoring system in the entire Nation.

Under Governor Whitman, New Jersey has been a national leader in redeveloping brownfields, which has long been an issue for me as the chairman of this committee, and even prior to becoming the chairman—in reforming the brownfields legislation to clean up these blights on our society. That experience in dealing with brownfields will be invaluable as we develop Federal legislation.

Conservation has also been a top priority for this nominee. During her 7 years as Governor of New Jersey, more open space and farmland was preserved than in the previous 32 years. She has preserved more land than any previous administration in New Jersey, and under a conservation program that she established, and was overwhelmingly approved by the voters, nearly 1 million acres will be preserved by the year 2010.

The list of her environmental accomplishments goes on and on, from air quality to smart growth to species conservation. The bottom line is that New Jersey's air, water, and land are cleaner because of Governor Whitman.