

## SENATE—Wednesday, July 25, 2001

The Senate met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Presiding Officer, the Honorable HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, a Senator from the State of New York.

### PRAYER

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

God of Hope, fill us with Your Spirit of hope so that we may be positive communicators of hope to the people around us and in the ongoing business of the Senate. Bless the Senators with a fresh draught of dynamic hope. May their hope be more than wishing, yearning, or surface optimism but hope that has its source and strength in Your faithfulness. You gave birth to the American dream, You watched over our growth as a nation with Your providential care, and You intervened in crises and strife to turn our struggles into stepping stones toward Your vision of a nation of righteousness, justice, and opportunity. We have every reason to be hopeful as we deal with the momentous and mundane issues this day will dish out. Give the Senators the zest, verve, and vitality of authentic hope today. For them and all of us who work with or for them, we pray that You will hope through us, God of Hope. Only then can we experience the deep wells and living streams of true hope for everyone and every problem, every circumstance and every situation. With vibrant hope we press on with expectation and enthusiasm. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON 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.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, July 25, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable HILLARY RODHAM

CLINTON, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,  
President pro tempore.

Mrs. CLINTON thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### 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 not to extend beyond the hour of 10 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the minority have their full 30 minutes this morning and that the majority also have their full 30 minutes.

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

### SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, there will be 1 hour of morning business today, with the first 30 minutes under the control of Senator HUTCHISON. For the second 30 minutes, Senator DURBIN will speak from 9:30 to approximately 9:45. The final 15 minutes of the majority's time will be consumed by Senator WELLSTONE.

Shortly after 10 a.m., the Senate will resume consideration of the Transportation Appropriations Act. The majority leader has indicated there will be rollcall votes on amendments or other matters throughout the day.

In addition, as the leader announced last night, the Senate will likely consider several Executive Calendar nominations and S. 1218, the Iran-Libya sanctions bill. As a foundation from the prayer of the Chaplain where he said we should go forward with zest, verve, and vitality, I am not sure I can define each of those, but they sound

really good. I hope we can move forward expeditiously and complete our work prior to the target adjournment next Friday—a week from this Friday.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas is recognized for 30 minutes.

### TAX REBATES

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I rise today to talk about the tax rebate checks that started going in the mail this very week. In fact, I have already talked to someone who has received a tax rebate. It made me feel so good to know that something we have worked so long to do and so hard to do is now beginning to reach the American people.

I think it is a very timely opportunity for the American people to have a little extra money in their pocketbooks, to be able to do some of the things that maybe they weren't going to be able to do, and also, hopefully, to help spur this economy that is certainly in a stagnant phase.

We are very excited that July 23 is the week that the first set of checks go out. They will be going out between now and the end of September. And everyone who paid taxes last year will receive a rebate. If you paid taxes and you are a single person, you will receive \$300. If you paid \$300, you will receive \$300 back. If you are a single person who is the head of a household—a single mom or dad—you will receive \$500 in the mail. If you are a married couple, you will receive \$600 in the mail if you paid taxes and if you filed your taxes for 2000. Starting July 23, those checks will be in the mail during the course of the next 2 months.

Now, we are very hopeful that people will be able to take this money and do something that they might not have been able to do otherwise. It might be just helping buy the children back-to-school supplies or clothes or shoes; it might be a little added something for a vacation—if you are getting your check in time for vacation, or maybe you are planning on doing it. It could be investing for your pension. It could be that little added bonus of \$300 or \$600 that you would put into retirement. Whatever a person does with their money will help the economy because it will be an investment—an investment in something for use today or an investment in something for use over the next few years. All of that will be helpful. We are looking at layoffs being advertised in the newspaper now, so people are needing that little extra boost in many ways.