The Senate met at 10:01 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. BYRD].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. By unanimous consent, the Senate will now convene notwithstanding the provisions of Senate Resolution No. 6 adopted January 3 in this year of our Lord, 2001.

PRAYER

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

Almighty God, source of strength and hope in the darkest hours of our Nation's history, we praise You for the consistency and constancy of Your presence with us to help us confront and battle the forces of evil manifested in infamous, illusive, cowardly acts of terrorism. We turn to You with hearts filled with dismay, anger, and grief over the terrorist attacks on the World Trade buildings in New York City and the Pentagon here in Washington. We pray for the thousands of victims who lost their lives as a result of these violent acts against our Nation. We intercede for their loved ones; comfort them and give them courage. In particular, we pray for the loved ones of the fire fighters and police who died seeking to help others. Quiet our turbulent hearts. Remind us of how You have been with us in trouble and tragedies of the past and have given us victory over tyranny. Bless the women and men of this Senate today as they join with President Bush in decisive action. Guide them as they seek justice against the perpetrators of yesterday's evil destruction and seek to devise a long-range solution to the insidious problem of terrorism. Thank You in advance for the courageous leadership You will provide through this Senate. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd 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 majority leader is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. DASCHLE. I ask unanimous consent that the Journal of proceedings be approved to date; that the morning hour be deemed expired; that the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 to 2 p.m. for the weekly party conferences.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the requests are granted.

THANKING THE CHAPLAIN

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I thank the Chaplain for his prayer. I know he speaks for us all.

THANKING THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I also thank the distinguished Republican leader for the cooperation and leadership that he showed yesterday as we made decisions throughout the day with regard to the schedule.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DASCHLE. For the interest of all Senators, there will be a debate on the resolution which I am about to propose on behalf of both leaders. I might say this is also a resolution verbatim that will be offered in the House of Representatives; the same resolution will be offered simultaneously in both the House and the Senate this morning. We will break for party conferences at 12:30. We will have a classified briefing at 2 o'clock this afternoon for all Senators. We will continue to have an opportunity for Senators to be heard on the resolution throughout the day. And at a time upon which we will agree later, there will be a vote on the resolution some time this afternoon. It is my hope and expectation that there will also be a prayer service tonight. The time will be announced at a later time today subject to further discussions with the Speaker and, of course, the Republican leader.

I would also ask, Mr. President, to accommodate schedules of certain Senators, that after the resolution is proposed and the four leaders have been recognized for their statements, the Senators from New York and the Senators from Virginia be given first recognition, and following the statements made by those Senators, that Senators be recognized on an alternative basis throughout the day.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? Hearing no objection, it is so ordered.

THANKING THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I just want to say also—and I will have more to say about the resolution in a moment—how much I appreciate the work yesterday that was totally nonpartisan, totally cooperative from the leadership on the Democratic side of the aisle and on this side of the aisle and with the House of Representatives. That was the right thing to do. It was done. Senator Daschle was there. He made decisions that were appropriate after consultation—and some of them were tough—that even sometimes had to be modified later because events kept changing. I express my appreciation to him for that.

Also, this resolution today is bipartisan and bicameral; the same resolution will be considered in the House of Representatives. It is a good resolution. I believe it is strong. It is important that the American people and the world know that is the way we are proceeding. I thank Senator Daschle for his cooperation.

TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk. The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will state the resolution.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 22) expressing the sense of the Senate and the House of Representatives regarding the terrorist attacks launched against the United States on September 11, 2001:

Whereas on September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked and destroyed four civilian aircraft, crashing two of them into the towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, and a third into the Pentagon outside Washington, D.C.;

Whereas thousands of innocent Americans were killed and injured as a result of these attacks, including the passengers and crew of the four aircraft, workers in the World Trade Center and in the Pentagon, rescue workers, and bystanders;

Whereas these attacks destroyed both towers of the World Trade Center, as well as adjacent buildings, and seriously damaged the Pentagon; and

Whereas these attacks were by far the deadliest terrorist attacks ever launched against the United States, and by targeting symbols of American strength and success, clearly were intended to intimidate our Nation and weaken its resolve: Now, therefore,

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress—(1) condemns in the strongest possible terms the terrorists who planned and carried out the September 11, 2001, attacks against the United States, as well as their sponsors;

(2) extends its deepest condolences to the victims of these heinous and cowardly attacks, as well as to their families, friends, and loved ones;