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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 107th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

SENATE—Thursday, February 8, 2001

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MIKE DEWINE, a Senator from the State of Ohio.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Rabbi Leslie Y. Gutterman, Temple Beth-El, Providence, RI, offered the following prayer:

God of the free, Hope of the brave, we invoke Your blessings upon the Members of this Senate. May they be filled with Your spirit, the spirit of wisdom, compassion, and understanding.

Help these good women and men to keep America free from prejudice, oppression, and strife. Let the Senators' deliberations fulfill our deepest spiritual desires and promote justice, freedom, and peace. Cause their example to strengthen every citizen's capacity for self-sacrifice on behalf of our country's welfare.

Hasten the day, we fervently pray, when security and abundance will be the share of all. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LINCOLN CHAFEE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, 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 please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 8, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE DEWINE, a Senator from the State of Ohio, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,
President pro tempore.

Mr. DEWINE thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island.

RABBI LESLIE Y. GUTTERMAN

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I am honored to be able to welcome my friend and great leader in our religious community in Rhode Island, Rabbi Leslie Gutterman. Rabbi Gutterman is the rabbi at Temple Beth-El, Providence, RI. He has been leading his congregation since 1970. He has become a leader in our community not just within the Jewish community but within all the communities in Rhode Island.

The Talmud says the Torah gives honor to those who study it. Rabbi Gutterman has studied it and has been honored for this study. He honors us by his wisdom, his wit, his compassion, his generous spirit, in all he endeavors throughout our community.

It is indeed an honor to be here today to welcome him, to hear his words of prayer and reflection, and to go forward knowing that he is not only a friend but also a powerful force in our State for tolerance and decency. I thank him for being here today.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader, the Senator from Oklahoma.

SCHEDULE

Mr. NICKLES. Today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m., with the majority leader to be recognized at 11 a.m. for up to 15 minutes. By previous consent, following morning business, the Senate will begin consideration of the pipeline safety legislation. An agreement was reached last night with respect to amendments to the pipeline safety bill. Therefore, it is hoped that the Senate can complete action on the bill at a reasonable hour this afternoon.

I thank my colleagues for their cooperation.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, while the distinguished Senator from Oklahoma is on the floor, does the Senator have an idea what time the leaders want to have the vote today or hope to have the vote today?

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I don't know. I do know there is an agreement that any amendments have to be relevant to the pipeline safety legislation. I think the legislation has overwhelming support, so it is my guess we will be able to have conclusion at a reasonable hour.

Mr. REID. A number of people have made inquiries today.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. There will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 11 a.m. Under the previous order, the time from 9:30 to 10 a.m. will be under the control of the Senator from New Jersey.

The Senator from New Jersey is now recognized.

THE SURPLUS

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, in these times of extraordinary budgetary wealth, it is easy to forget it was less than a decade ago that a now famous comment was made that the U.S. Government would have deficits as far as the eye could see. Indeed, in 1992 when the Clinton administration began, the annual deficit was \$290 billion and was projected to grow to \$455 billion this year. Today, not only has that annual deficit been eliminated but the budget surplus is \$237 billion, for the first time in generations, 3 successive years of budget surpluses, leading to the extraordinary ability of the U.S. Treasury by next year to have reduced the

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