

SENATE—Wednesday, March 7, 2001

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable GEORGE ALLEN, a Senator from the State of Virginia.

PRAYER

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

Gracious Father, we need You. It is not for some specific blessing we ask but for the greatest of all blessings, the one from which all others flow. We dare to ask You for a renewal of the wonderful friendship that makes the conversation we call prayer a natural give-and-take, a divine dialog. In this sacred moment, we open ourselves to receive this gift of divine companionship with You. Why is it that we are so amazed that You know us better than we know ourselves? Show us what we need to ask of You so that You can demonstrate Your generosity once again.

Open our minds so that we may see ourselves, our relationships, our work, the Senate, and our Nation from Your perspective. Reveal to us Your priorities, Your plan. We spread out before You our problems and perplexities. Help us to listen attentively to the answers that You will give. We ask You to be our unseen but undeniable Friend. Place Your hand on our shoulders at our desks, in meetings, and especially here in this historic Chamber. May our communion with You go deeper as the day unfolds. This is the day You have made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.—Psalm 118:24. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable GEORGE ALLEN 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, March 7, 2001.

To the Senate:

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

STROM THURMOND,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oklahoma.

SCHEDULE

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period for morning business until 11:30 a.m. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the Bankruptcy Reform Act. Amendments to the bill will be offered during today's session. Those Members with amendments should work with the bill managers in an effort to finish the bill in a timely manner. Senators will be notified as votes are scheduled. I thank my colleagues for their cooperation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to direct a question to the assistant majority leader. There is an important mission this week to Colombia. There are a number of Senators and a number of Members from the House traveling to Colombia. I ask that the majority leader give us some indication as to how he can work with us regarding tomorrow afternoon. They want to leave sometime tomorrow afternoon, if possible. We may have the ability, because of all the many amendments being talked about to be offered, to debate a number of these tomorrow, maybe even Friday. If that is not possible, the Senators want to know so they can rearrange their travel plans.

Mr. NICKLES. I appreciate the comments of my colleague and friend. We want to be cooperative with Members on both sides. We also want to finish the bankruptcy bill. I will work with the Senator from Nevada to see if we can coordinate schedules and amendments and bring the bill to a close in the not too distant future and also facilitate the trip to Colombia which is an important trip as well.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Before the Chair recognizes the Senator from New York, the Chair will

state what the order of events will be this morning.

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 11:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes.

Under the previous order, the Senator from New York, Mrs. CLINTON, is recognized to speak for up to 15 minutes.

Mrs. CLINTON. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mrs. CLINTON pertaining to the introduction of S. 476 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. BIDEN. I ask unanimous consent to proceed in morning business for up to 15 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senator from Delaware, Mr. BIDEN, is recognized to speak for up to 15 minutes.

NORTH KOREA

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the situation in North Korea. Today President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea is meeting with President Bush as part of his official state visit. His visit occurs against a hopeful backdrop of the third round of family reunions on the divided Korean peninsula. Fathers are greeting their grownup sons; sisters are hugging their sisters they haven't seen for a generation. Grandmothers are meeting their grandchildren who they have never met.

Tomorrow the distinguished chairman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee and I will host the President of South Korea for coffee here on Capitol Hill. Kim's visit will give us a chance to renew the close bonds forged in blood in the common struggle against the forces of oppression which unite our people in the United States and South Korea.

I rise today to talk a little bit about the Korean peninsula and the important role the United States can play in concert with our South Korean allies and other friends to help build lasting peace on that peninsula.