

## SENATE—Tuesday, March 20, 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 Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on this Senate Chamber. Enter the mind and heart of each Senator and reign as Sovereign over all that is said and done this day. We praise You for the dedication of the Senators and for their earnestness to deal with the crucial issues before our Nation. May these days of genuine exchange of concerns and convictions move the Senate forward to an agreeable solution for the future of campaigning for office in America.

Lord, we are here to serve You and Your best for our Nation. Thank You for all the people who contribute to the Senate with such loyal and excellent service. Today we praise you for the life of John Roberson who worked in the Disbursing Office for 20 years. Now as his family and friends grieve his death, we ask You especially to care for his son Dave who has followed in his father's footsteps with his own 20-year period of loyal service.

Today, we renew our commitment to do all we can to serve the best we can and express Your care for whomever we can. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MIKE DEWINE 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 20, 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.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today the Senate will immediately resume consideration of the campaign finance reform legislation. An amendment regarding self-financed campaigns is expected to be offered, with up to 3 hours of debate in order. It is also expected that some debate time will be yielded back and that a vote will occur sometime around noon today—certainly before the weekly party luncheons. We will be in recess from approximately 12:30 until 2:15 p.m. for the weekly conferences to meet. Amendments are expected to be offered throughout the day and therefore votes on amendments are expected to occur approximately every 3 hours.

I am concerned about the very inauspicious beginning that the Senate had on this legislation yesterday. I had described it as a jump ball, where everybody would have a free and fair opportunity to offer amendments and have debate but there would be votes on those amendments after 3 hours. I expected we would have a vote sometime between 5:30 and 6:30, as we did yesterday, and there would be debate on the next amendment last night and we would be ready for a vote now. That is not the case because of the spectacle that occurred at the end of the vote yesterday.

I thought it did not go well, and I thought the Senate looked very close to being silly on our first amendment on this very important issue. I was stunned, quite frankly; on an amendment as broadly supported as I know the amendment is, to give candidates that are running against superwealthy candidates some way to be able to compete, I can't help but believe that when we get a direct vote on that issue, it will pass overwhelmingly. My assumption was that it got tangled up just because it was the first vote and there was a desire to show that one side or the other was going to win. I was very disappointed in that.

I am also concerned, with the agreement that was reached, in all fairness, on both sides, that we would have amendments and regular votes every 3 hours, we had already slipped 3 hours on that. And also I hope, once again, that objections to Senators amending their own amendments will not be heard. The tradition around here is

that we allow colleagues to amend their own amendments. I think that is when the confusion began yesterday in a very disappointing beginning.

But Senators on both sides worked last night and worked this morning, and I understand an agreement has been reached as to the amendment that will be offered in a few minutes. After that is offered, we will come back and have another amendment on this side of the aisle and Senator MCCONNELL and others will have an opportunity.

I yield to the Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I tell the majority leader that we have an amendment. I don't believe it will take all 3 hours because it was debated last night. We have an agreement which is being written up now. So I believe that we could, within a fairly brief period of time, have a vote on it and move on to another amendment from the Republican side, thereby sort of catching up from yesterday.

I mention also that we were supposed to start at noon yesterday, but we didn't start until 1. I don't know whose decision that was. That is not important. We can catch up this morning. We met this morning and we are getting the final details, which we needed to do. This is a very complex, extremely complex issue.

The challenges of a millionaire declaring his or her candidacy in Wyoming are significantly different from doing that in the State of California. We tried to accommodate it and, frankly, we have. Those issues were still unresolved last night when the vote was attempted, and all of us were confident that we could work out the differences, bring up an agreement, which will be brought up in the name of Senator DOMENICI and Senator DEWINE and Senator DURBIN, and we can have a relatively brief period of debate and vote on it and then move to another amendment by Senator MCCONNELL, or whoever he designates.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, let me say to Senator MCCAIN—and then I will yield to Senator REID—I appreciate the fact that something has been worked out which appears to be fair to all sides. And since we already debated it for a time yesterday, it won't be necessary to rehash all of that. Maybe we can make up for some of the lost time.

The clear understanding, when the Senator from Arizona and I discussed this issue, was that we would try to keep it on a steady schedule and get amendments offered and voted on every 3 hours, or less if possible.

I yield to Senator REID.