The Senate met at 9:15 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MIKE CRAPO, a Senator from the State of Idaho.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today’s prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rev. Campbell Gillon, Georgetown Presbyterian Church, Washington, DC.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Rev. Campbell Gillon, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, on this National Tartan Day we remember pointers of the past. Near 700 years ago William Wallace died crusading for freedom and on this very date 681 years ago, our Scots forebears declared independence from English overlords in the Declaration of Arbroath, made by a parliament gathered there. So we gather at the center of this great Nation of all nations, itself born in a comparable Declaration of Independence, recognizing the influence of distant words and the intricate weaving of faith, kin, and clan.

We bless Thee for a multifaceted heritage left by fellow Scots on this continent. From John Paul Jones, founder of the Navy; Gilbert Stuart, painter of George Washington; Andrew Carnegie, money-maker and giver; John Muir, environmentalist, creator of Yosemite National Park; Rev. James Blair, founder of William and Mary College, to Rev. John Witherspoon, signer of the Declaration of Arbroath, the William Wallace award will be presented this very evening. And from its pages, read Thy Word, was stressed from the beginning of the Tartan Day week-end, a time to be celebrated nationwide in honor of the millions of Scottish-Americans and their contribution to our Nation. In 1998, the Senate passed Resolution 155 recognizing April 6 as National Tartan Day, the anniversary of the Declaration of Arbroath, signed on April 6, 1320. On that day, a group of Scots declared their independence and stated, “We fight not for glory, nor riches, nor honours, but only and alone we fight for freedom, which no good man surrenders, but with his life.” Our own Declaration of Independence was inspired by the wording and spirit of this Declaration of Arbroath.

Today, we begin the Tartan Day celebrations with a special ceremony at 11 a.m. on the West Steps of the Capitol. The William Wallace award will be presented to the distinguished actor, film star, and benefactor, Sir Sean Connery. In celebration of Tartan Day, it was a pleasure to have The Rev. Campbell Gillon as the guest Chaplain and give our opening prayer this morning. Mr. Gillon is a native Scot who has served as the pastor of the Georgetown Presbyterian Church for 20 years. Our own Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie, who also serves as president of the St. Andrews Society of Washington, is the organizer of the Tartan Day Celebration here at the Capitol today. It’s good to see both our Chaplain and the guest Chaplain in their tartan kilts. They are ready for a great day and weekend for the Scots. I’m proud of my own Scots heritage through the Watson clan and look forward to the ceremony this morning. I will join our Chaplain and the guest Chaplain soon, as will my son and I am sure many other Senators of Scottish ancestry. This will be a great day, a great weekend for all Scots, both in America and in Scotland.

I want to make the Senate aware of the special occasion. Amongst all these amendments and this great debate of the budget resolution, I am sure the spirit of the Declaration of Arbroath will be felt throughout the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maine is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today the Senate will immediately resume consideration of the budget resolution. There will be 30 minutes of debate on the Stabenow and Collins amendments with back-to-back votes to occur at 9:30. Following the votes, Senator CONRAD will be recognized to offer his amendment regarding debt reduction. As a reminder, first-degree amendments to the resolution must be filed by 2 p.m. today. Senators should expect another late session with votes into the night. Votes will also occur throughout the day tomorrow. I thank my colleagues for their attention.

Mr. REID. If the Senator will yield, Senator CONRAD has indicated to me that he will be recognized to offer his amendment regarding debt reduction. Senator DURBIN.

Ms. COLLINS. I thank the Senator for that clarification.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 700

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for its second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 700) to establish a Federal interagency task force for the purpose of coordinating actions to prevent the outbreak of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (commonly known as “mad cow disease”) and foot-and-mouth disease in the United States.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MIKE CRAPO 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.

S. 700

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