

## SENATE—Monday, May 7, 2001

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

### PRAYER

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

Almighty God, Sovereign of this Nation, we recognize our acute sense of accountability to You. We claim Solomon's promise, "In everything you do, put God first, and He will direct you and crown your effort with success."—Prov. 3:6, Living Bible. In response, we say with the psalmist, "Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord."—Psalm 19:14. We also accept Jesus' admonition to "seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness." Matt. 6:33.

Help us remember that every thought we think and every word we speak is open to Your scrutiny. We commit this day to love You with our minds and honor You with our words. Guide the crucial decisions of this day. Bless the Senators with Your gifts of wisdom and vision. Grant them the profound inner peace that results from trusting You completely. Draw them together in oneness in diversity, unity in patriotism, and loyalty in a shared commitment to You. In the name of our Lord. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CRAIG THOMAS, a Senator from the State of Wyoming, 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 assistant clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 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 HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,  
President pro tempore.

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

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

Mr. THOMAS. I thank the Chair.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. THOMAS. Today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 2 p.m. Following morning business, there will be 2 hours to resume consideration of the education reform bill. Amendments are expected to be offered during that debate. Any votes ordered will occur in a stacked sequence beginning at 10:15 tomorrow. At 4 o'clock today, the Senate will begin consideration of the Bolton nomination to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security. There will be up to 3 hours of debate on this nomination with an additional 45 minutes for debate tomorrow morning prior to the vote on confirmation at 10:15. Senators should expect several stacked votes tomorrow morning beginning at 10:15.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Also under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 2 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes. Under the previous order, the time until 1:30 shall be under the control of the Senator from Alaska, Mr. MURKOWSKI.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Thank you, Mr. President. I wish you a good afternoon.

### ENERGY POLICY

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, the purpose of my addressing my colleagues today is to question just what kind of energy policy is supportable in this country as a consequence of many of the leading opinion makers and newspapers relative to just how we go about addressing our energy crisis.

It might get the attention of the Chair to recognize that California alone, which has received an awful lot of notoriety, clearly has a crisis. It can

probably best be addressed by indicating that in 1998 Californians spent \$9 billion for energy—electric energy. In the year 2000, they spent \$20 billion. In the year 2001, it is estimated they will have spent somewhere between \$65 and \$75 billion. It is not really necessary to say much more. If that is not an acknowledgment of that being a crisis, I do not know what is.

What I find frustrating is the inconsistency of just how we are going to get out of this crisis. I refer to an editorial appearing in the Washington Post today. It is entitled "Selling the Energy Plan." I ask unanimous consent that the editorial be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

#### SELLING THE ENERGY PLAN

Soon President Bush will unveil his energy policy, and last week his administration began sounding some of the themes that will be used to sell it. The country faces an energy crisis, officials repeated. "We're running out of energy in America," the president said; both new supplies and conservation are needed because "we can't conserve our way to energy independence." Simple, compelling messages. The only trouble is, they're not exactly right.

The problem isn't "running out of" resources, it's getting them to the right places at the right time. While many consumers struggle with high bills, there's not a crisis of supply unless you live in California. And America won't reach true energy independence through any combination of production and conservation, at least as long as transportation runs on oil.

That's not to say there aren't serious challenges. There are, and meeting them will require hard choices. But it's important to be clear about the critical issues. Those include expanding infrastructure—such as pipelines, transmission lines and refineries—so that electricity and fuel can be produced and delivered when needed. They also include a serious look at how to guard against damaging price spikes or supply interruptions in deregulated energy markets. Currently, one effect of deregulation has been the erosion of incentives for maintaining the extra supply or generating capacity that can cushion against sudden jumps in demand.

Along the way, policymakers must be clear-eyed about prices. Protecting against economy-damaging price hikes is one thing; promising an endless supply of cheap energy is another. The energy debate ought to include a hard look at where prices should be to reflect energy's true cost and to encourage responsible use. Any discussion must acknowledge that the world market will continue to set oil prices, no matter what America does to boost domestic supply.

It's also worth noting that the energy market is responding already. Natural gas drilling increased last year. Vice President Cheney noted this past week that growing electricity demand will require the equivalent of 1,300 to 1,900 new power plants during the