The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable E. BENJAMIN NELSON, a Senator from the State of Nebraska.

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

Gracious Father, almighty Sovereign of our beloved Nation, and loving Lord of our lives, our hearts overflow with gratitude. Thank You for the privilege of living in this land You have blessed so bountifully. You have called this Nation to be a demonstration of the freedom and opportunity, righteousness and justice You desire for all nations. Help us to be faithful to our destiny. May our response be spelled out in dedicated service.

Dear God, empower the women and men of this Senate as they seek Your vision and wisdom for the problems we face as a nation. Proverbs reminds us that “When the righteous are in power, the people rejoice.” We rejoice in the Senators in both parties who seek to be right with You so they will know what is right for our Nation. You have told us, “Righteousness exalts a nation.”—Proverbs 14:34.

Lord, we live in times that challenge faith in You. As a nation, secularity often replaces spirituality and humanistic materialism substitutes for humble mindedness. Bless the Senators as they give dynamic leadership. Grant them wisdom, grant them courage, for the facing of this hour. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Honorable E. BENJAMIN NELSON 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 from the Senate to the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDING OFFICER,

To the Senate:
Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable E. BENJAMIN NELSON, a Senator from the State of Nebraska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD, President pro tempore.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 1077, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:
A bill (S. 1077) making supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes.

Pending:
Reid (for Schumacher) amendment No. 862, to rescind $150,000 for the printing and postage costs of the notices to be sent by the Internal Revenue Service before and after the tax rebate, such amount to remain available for debt reduction.

Reid (for Feingold) amendment No. 863, to increase the amount provided to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis, and to offset that increase by rescinding amounts appropriated to the Navy for the V–22 Osprey aircraft program.

Craig (for Roberts) amendment No. 864, to prohibit the use of funds for reorganizing certain B–1 bomber forces.

Voinovich amendment No. 865, to protect the social security surpluses by preventing on-budget deficits.

Byrd (for Conrad) amendment No. 866 (to amendment No. 865), to establish an off-budget lockbox to strengthen Social Security and Medicare.

Conrad amendment No. 867, to provide funds for emergency housing on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation.

Stevens (for McCain) amendment No. 868, to increase amounts appropriated to the Department of Defense.

Stevens (for Hatch) amendment No. 869, to provide additional funds for military personnel, working-capital funds, mission-critical maintenance, force protection, and other purposes by increasing amounts appropriated to the Department of Defense, and to offset the increases by reducing and rescinding certain appropriations.

Stevens (for Craig) amendment No. 870, to provide additional amounts to repair damage caused by ice storms in the States of Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Stevens (for Craig) amendment No. 871, regarding the proportionality of the level of non-military exports purchased by Israel to the amount of United States cash transfer assistance for Israel.

Bond amendment No. 872, to increase amounts appropriated for the Department of Defense.

Reid (for Hollings) amendment No. 873, ensuring funding for defense and education and the supplemental appropriation by repealing tax cuts for 2001.

Reid (for Wellstone) amendment No. 874, to increase funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, with an offset.

Stevens (for Johnson) amendment No. 875, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to make certain interest rate changes permanent.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 866 AND 865
The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 hours of concurrent debate, equally divided, in relation to the lockbox amendments, Nos. 866 and 865.

The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask the time I consume not be charged against either Senator CONRAD or Senator VONNOVICH.

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

SCHEDULE
Mr. REID. First of all, as has been announced, we have now resumed consideration of the supplemental appropriations bill. The majority leader indicated that both Senator STEVENS and Senator BYRD have every intention of finishing this bill today so we can go on to the Interior appropriations bill tomorrow. The majority leader has authorized me to state it is his wish we could complete that legislation sometime on Thursday—Interior appropriations.

If we did that, the majority leader said there would be no votes on Friday. So it would be really good if we could do that. It will take a lot of cooperation from everyone.

The majority leader has also asked me to express his appreciation to everyone for the cooperation on the Patients’ Bill of Rights. It was a very contentious issue. Both sides worked, offered very difficult amendments for everyone to consider. It was done. It was done in an expedient way, and we arrived at a conclusion at an earlier time than people expected.

There are 14 amendments today. We have every expectation that some of them will be accepted by the managers of the legislation. Others, perhaps, can be worked out. The two managers of the bill have asked that we work to try to get time agreements on each of the amendments, and we will do that.

We hope we can arrive at a situation today where there can be votes at 2:15, as has been announced earlier. We expect, with the cooperation of Senator VONNOVICH and Senator CONRAD, that can be done, and we will work toward the end.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Who yields time?

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum. I ask the time be equally charged against both sides.