

SENATE—Tuesday, February 1, 2005

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI, a Senator from the State of Alaska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by former Senate Chaplain Dr. Lloyd Ogilvie from Los Angeles, CA.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, Sovereign of this Nation and Lord of our lives, thank You for the gifts of life, intellect, good memories, and daring visions. We don't ask for challenges equal to our talents and training, education and experience; rather, we ask for opportunities equal to Your power and vision. Forgive us when we pare life down to what we could do on our own without Your power. Make us adventuresome, undaunted leaders who seek to know what You want done and attempt it because You will provide exactly what is needed to accomplish it. We thank You that tough times are nothing more than possibilities wrapped in negative attitudes.

Lord of the unfolding drama of history, we praise You for the triumph of the first free election in half a century in Iraq. We honor the courage of the millions of Iraqis who defied danger and reprisal to exercise their new liberty from tyranny.

We know that freedom is not free; it is the legacy of liberators of our Armed Forces, some of whom paid the supreme price to assure freedom for the people of Iraq. Help us to cherish our freedoms in America and never take for granted the privileges we enjoy.

Now bless the women and men of this Senate. Help them experience the palpable presence of Your Spirit and receive the incredible resilience You provide. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI 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. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 1, 2005.

To the Senate:

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

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Ms. MURKOWSKI 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. FRIST. Madam President, this morning we have a period for morning business until 10:45. At 10:45, we will proceed to executive session for the consideration of the nomination of Alberto Gonzales to be Attorney General. Chairman SPECTER will begin that debate. On this side, we are prepared to allow for a reasonable time for debate and then set a time certain for the vote. I hope that at an early hour today we will be able to lock in an agreement so that Members will be able to prepare accordingly. We do want all Senators to have the opportunity to come to the floor and express themselves and debate appropriately. Over the course of the morning, we will hopefully have more certainty in terms of when we will complete debate.

I do want to encourage Senators in the meantime to contact the chairman or the ranking member in order to facilitate an orderly schedule for speakers. I welcome the debate on Mr. Gonzales and look forward to the Senate acting on this important nomination.

Once again, I mentioned yesterday but I want to remind our colleagues today, we have a State of the Union Message tomorrow, a joint meeting of Congress at 9 p.m. We have asked Senators to gather in the Chamber beginning at 8:30 to proceed at 8:40 to the Hall of the House of Representatives tomorrow night.

I have a statement to make, but I would like to turn to the minority leader.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

WELCOME TO FORMER CHAPLAIN OGILVIE

Mr. REID. Madam President, as the distinguished majority leader and I stood in the aisle, as soon as Reverend Ogilvie finished his prayer, the Republican leader leaned over to me and said, how about that voice, or words to that effect. Those were the exact memories I have of Dr. Ogilvie. I spent 5 years listening to his prayers every morning. As a result of that, I felt it was a good way to start the day. It brought back so many memories of our time together.

It seems that one of the requirements, at least with the last two chaplains we have had, is the voice. Dr. Black and Dr. Ogilvie have two of the finest voices I have ever heard and each time I hear them say something I become so envious that I have my voice and they have theirs.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, the Democratic leader is exactly right. That was our first comment. What is even more embarrassing is when you are side by side with either Lloyd Ogilvie or Chaplain Black and you have to sing, because their voices are so powerful, which does mean so much to us in terms of expressing feelings, emotion, and values. When it is applied to the beautiful voice of singing, it is especially embarrassing to me as they are next to me because the contrast is so dramatic.

It is a great pleasure for all of us to welcome Lloyd Ogilvie back with us this morning to open today with a prayer that struck at what we have seen the last couple of days, but also the real responsibility and obligations we have as Members of the Senate. We have been blessed with chaplains such as Chaplain Black and Chaplain Ogilvie to serve us and the American people so selflessly and unselfishly during our tenure.

TSUNAMI: LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

Mr. FRIST. Madam President, I will comment on Judge Alberto Gonzales and his confirmation. Over the period for morning business, others will be coming by and speaking on the confirmation, although we do not officially begin until 10:45. Before doing