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# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

## SENATE—Friday, March 11, 2005

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.  
Oh God, Who knows every one of our deepest desires, even our hurts are not hidden from You. We rejoice that we are Your children. Thank You for saving us from unseen traps and dangers. Help us to live so that we will inspire generations not yet born.

As Senators do the work of freedom today, may they labor with a sense of history. Give them the courage to make decisions that will strengthen our Nation for the storms ahead. Keep them from the pitfalls that nurture divisions and unite them in their efforts to find common ground.

Listen to our prayer and let Your light shine upon us. Shine on us, Lord, and we will be safe. We pray this in Your powerful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore 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.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

### SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this morning, we will be in a period of morning business to allow Senators to make statements. As announced by the majority leader last night, there will be no rollcall votes during today's session. Under the order, we will begin

consideration of the budget resolution on Monday at 10 a.m. The chairman and ranking member expect amendments to be offered during Monday's session and, therefore, the next vote will occur at approximately 5:30 Monday evening.

I will reiterate what I said last night and remind my colleagues it will be a very busy week next week. The budget resolution will have 45 hours of debate remaining for its consideration. That will require late nights with many votes. I believe all Senators would like to avoid the vote-arama that often occurs prior to adoption of the budget resolution. In order to do so, we will need to keep a steady pace each day and evening next week and work together to finish the number of votes required to complete the bill. Next week is the last legislative week prior to the Easter break, so all Senators should plan to remain close to the Chamber so we can complete our work on time.

Let me reiterate what I said last evening with regard to next Friday. I know Members like to be ready to depart on Fridays normally, and particularly on Fridays before a recess, but this is budget week. Unless we have an extraordinary occurrence that I have not witnessed in recent years, we will be here through the day Friday and up into the evening Friday night. So I would say to all of our colleagues, be prepared for an unusual Friday a week from today in which we are here throughout the day voting, and well up into the evening voting, unless something truly extraordinary occurs that allows us to reach completion before that time.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized if he seeks recognition.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

### THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have, in effect, agreed to use 5 hours of the time on the budget today. The real work on it will start Monday at 10 o'clock in the morning. It is one of the rare instances in this body where we have a set time. That time is 50 hours. We are now down to 45 hours. It is also unique in that the time for voting does not count against the budget resolution. So there is a lot of work to do on this budget, and there will be a lot of amendments offered.

A couple of days ago I met with a group of ministers from a host of Protestant denominations. The reason they came to meet with me is they are extremely concerned about President Bush's budget. They shared with me their observations of it, and they based their presentation to me on a story from the Gospel of Luke in the New Testament.

In this story, there is a rich man and a poor man who lived in the same vicinity, and the poor man, Lazarus, was very poor. In life, the rich man lived a grand life and paid no attention to the poor man, or poor people generally, refusing to come to the poor man's aid when he should have. But in death, we are told in Scripture, it was Lazarus who went to Heaven and the rich man who did not.

Their purpose in sharing this story with me was to point out the immorality—that was their word: “immorality”—of turning a blind eye to economic injustice. And they wanted to make a larger point about the Bush 2006 budget, which, as they put it, has “much for the rich man and little for Lazarus.”

When you examine the Bush budget through a moral lens, as they were

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.