

SENATE—Wednesday, April 6, 2005

The Senate met at 9:32 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LAMAR ALEXANDER, a Senator from the State of Tennessee.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, who governs the nations with justice, hallowed be Your name. Lord, You cause the Earth to yield its harvest and send blessings to those who fear You. Great and marvelous are Your works.

Today give guidance to our Senators and the representatives of the people of this great land. Enable them to see the stamp of Your image in each person they serve. Remind them that when they lift up the lost and the least, they labor for You. Use them as Your instruments to bring order out of chaos. Bless our military men and women. Save them from calamities and clothe them with the armor of Your righteousness. And, Lord, give traveling mercies to the Senators who will be traveling to the Vatican.

We pray this in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LAMAR ALEXANDER 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, April 6, 2005.

To the Senate:

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

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ALEXANDER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning, following the leader time, we will resume consideration of the State Department authorization. In a moment, we will consider a couple of resolutions that have been cleared, with some brief remarks. Following that, there will be debate time remaining before 10 this morning, to be used for the pending Biden amendment. At 10 a.m., we will vote on the Biden amendment as the agreement provided last night.

Following that vote, the Senate will recess for a joint meeting of the House and Senate to receive an address by Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko, which is at 11 o'clock. Therefore, the Senate will proceed to the House of Representatives at approximately 10:30 this morning.

At the conclusion of the joint meeting, we will resume debate on the State Department bill. I expect votes throughout the course of the afternoon and likely into the evening, if necessary, to finish that bill. I hope Members will show some restraint and not feel compelled to offer amendment after amendment to the underlying bill and only those amendments that are substantive and necessary.

Chairman LUGAR and Senator BIDEN are expected to be on the floor throughout the day working on amendments. Senators should notify their respective cloakrooms if they intend to offer an amendment to the State Department bill. We will need to work very efficiently over the course of the day. I ask for all Members' assistance in this process.

UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in about an hour and a half we will receive the address by Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko.

It all began on November 22—not that long ago. On that icy Ukrainian day, hundreds of thousands of protesters from all over the countryside converged on Kiev's Independence Square to protest the Ukrainian Presidential election. The incumbent favored candidate, Viktor Yanukovich, had been declared the winner already. Meanwhile, nonpartisan, independent

exit polling—or series of polls—showed that Viktor Yushchenko, leader of the opposition party, had a clear nine-point lead.

For 17 days, in subzero weather, hundreds of thousands of men and women filled the streets of Independence Square, huddled in tents among strangers, braving the threats of police violence. It was an astonishing emotional display that stunned the world as these images came through our newspapers and across the television. After 17 days of this nonviolent solidarity, the people won. A new election was held. On January 23, Viktor Yushchenko was sworn in as the new President. The "Orange Revolution" will be forever emblazoned in the memories of all those who strive for freedom.

On behalf of the Senate, I am privileged to welcome the leader of this historic moment, President Viktor Yushchenko, to our Nation's Capitol.

Today, at 11 a.m. the President will address a joint session of Congress, making him the only leader of a former Soviet republic outside of Russia to do so. We are honored to have him address our highest legislative Chambers. We extend to him our congratulations and to the Ukrainian people our friendship and support. We are grateful for the sacrifices the Ukrainian military made in pursuing the cause of freedom and security in Iraq.

However, much lies ahead. I am heartened by President Yushchenko's commitment to reform. Following his inauguration, the Senate pledged to support the Ukrainian people to establish full democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights, and a free, transparent, and open economy. We firmly support Ukraine's independence and territorial sovereignty and their full integration into the international community of democracies.

The President of the United States has requested resources to support Ukraine's democracy building. It goes without saying that the Senate supports funding Ukraine's efforts.

I look forward to President Yushchenko's historic address to the Congress in a short while. He and the people of Ukraine have inspired the world and have written a new chapter in the story of human freedom.

On that first day the marchers filled Independence Square, they chanted: "Together we are many. We cannot be defeated."

Today, on behalf of the American people, I say to the people of Ukraine: Together we are one. Freedom will prevail.