

SENATE—Saturday, March 19, 2005

The Senate met at 6:16 p.m., pursuant to S. Res. 296 of the 108th Congress, and was called to order by the Honorable RICK SANTORUM, a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania.

PRAYER

The Honorable RICK SANTORUM offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we praise You for the constancy and consistency of Your faithfulness in blessing and guiding the Senate of the United States through the years of our Nation's history. We turn to You again today and know that You will be faithful to give the women and men of this Senate exactly what is needed in each hour, each challenge, each decision. Give us light when our vision is dim, courage when we need to be bold, decisiveness when it would be easy to equivocate, and hope when others are tempted to be discouraged. So we commit ourselves to be Your faithful servants, examples of patriotism to our people and crusaders for Your best for our Nation. In Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICK SANTORUM 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, March 19, 2005.

To the Senate:

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

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

THERESA MARIE SCHIAVO

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the Congress has been working nonstop over the last 3 days to do its part to uphold human dignity and affirm the culture of life. I am pleased to announce that the House and Senate Republican leadership have reached an agreement on a legislative solution. The Senate has come in today to pass an adjournment resolution which we will send shortly to the House of Representatives. Procedurally, this action will have the effect of bringing the House into session so they can either pass compromise legislation by unanimous consent on Sunday or place this legislation on the suspension calendar for consideration early Monday morning. The Senate will be prepared to reconvene as soon as the House passes this new legislation.

It has been more than 24 hours since Terri Schiavo's feeding tube was removed. Under the legislation we will soon consider, Terri Schiavo will have another chance. It is a simple bill, only two pages long. It allows Terri's case to be heard in Federal court. More specifically, it allows a Federal district judge to consider a claim "by or on behalf of Theresa Marie Schiavo for the alleged violation of any right of Theresa Marie Schiavo under the Constitution or laws of the United States relating to the withholding or withdrawal of food, fluids, or medical treatment necessary to sustain her life."

I am pleased with our progress thus far, and I am committed as leader to see this legislation pass and give Terri Schiavo one last chance at life.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 841

Mr. FRIST. I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 841) to require States to hold special elections to fill vacancies in the House of Representatives not later than 49 days after the vacancy is announced by the Speaker of the House of Representatives in extraordinary circumstances.

Mr. FRIST. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceeding.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the adjournment resolution (H. Con. Res. 103) which is at the desk, provided that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution was agreed to, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 103

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, March 17, 2005, Friday, March 18, 2005, or Saturday, March 19, 2005, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5, 2005, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Thursday, March 17, 2005, through Saturday, March 26, 2005, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, April 4, 2005, or at such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I want to be clear about what we just agreed to.

Today we will not be adjourning under the authority provided by the resolution that we just considered. This adjournment resolution will now allow the House to be called into session to consider legislative matters. At the close of business today, we will adjourn until Sunday. Once we are able to complete our work as it relates to Theresa Marie Schiavo, we are prepared to clear a new adjournment resolution so that we may begin the Easter recess.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 841. To require States to hold special elections to fill vacancies in the House of

Representatives not later than 49 days after the vacancy is announced by the Speaker of the House of Representatives in extraordinary circumstances.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on Friday, March 18, 2005, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 384. An act to extend the existence of the Nazi War Crimes and Japanese Imperial Government Records Interagency Working Group for 2 years.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 13

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 13, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to expand and enhance health care, mental health, transition, and disability benefits for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 602

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) was added as a cospon-

sor of S. 602, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to fund breakthroughs in Alzheimer's disease research while providing more help to caregivers and increasing public education about prevention.

S. 653

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 653, a bill for the relief of the family of Theresa Marie Schiavo.

S.J. RES. 7

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 7, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to equal rights for men and women.

ORDERS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2005

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, the Senate adjourn until 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 20. I further ask that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time of the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate then begin a period of

morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, tomorrow the Senate will convene for a short period of morning business. There will be no rollcall votes tomorrow. It appears that we have achieved compromise language with the House with respect to the Schiavo situation. It is my hope that the House will act on this language and send it to us early tomorrow afternoon, and I will have more to say on that tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 2 P.M. TOMORROW

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:22 p.m., adjourned until Sunday, March 20, 2005, at 2 p.m.