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Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, January 30, 1995)

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by a guest Chaplain, Rabbi Joshua O. Haberman, of the Washington Hebrew Congregation.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, the Rabbi Joshua O. Haberman, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

God of all nations, Thou has put into our minds the vision of an age when "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation * * * Neither shall they learn war anymore." When human follies overshadow this vision of peace, let not cynicism overtake us. Create a new heart and renew a steadfast spirit within us so that we may see Thy light even in darkness and still believe that Thou hast put divinity into mankind and still trust that reason has not altogether forsaken the human race nor compassion frozen in our hearts.

May we ever be humble enough to learn, bold enough to act, and faithful enough to persevere in the hope for brighter days when all human families will be one as Thou art one. Amen.

Mr. HATFIELD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oregon [Mr. HATFIELD] is recognized.

APPRECIATION FOR RABBI JOSHUA HABERMAN

Mr. HATFIELD. I thank Rabbi Joshua Haberman for his willingness to come this week and open our Senate with a prayer. He is the rabbi of one of the largest congregations here in the Washington, DC, district. I am very grateful, and I know on behalf of the leadership of both sides we wish to express our deep gratitude to the rabbi.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, this morning the time for the two leaders has been reserved, and there will now be a period for the transaction of routine morning business until the hour of 10:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

At the hour of 10:30 a.m., the Senate will resume consideration of House Joint Resolution 1, the constitutional balanced budget amendment and the pending amendments thereto. The majority leader has indicated there will be debate only today on the amendments. Therefore, there will be no roll-call votes during today's session.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 10:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for not to exceed 5 minutes each.

Mr. AKAKA addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished Senator from Hawaii [Mr. AKAKA] is recognized.

OPPOSING THE BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, as my colleagues know, we have all been elected to the Senate to make the difficult policy decisions that confront our Federal Government. Every day on the Senate floor, we engage in decisionmaking that is the essence of the legislative process.

Some decisions that come before the Senate are rather commonplace, such as how much to spend on scientific research or whether we will build and maintain new highways or ports. Other decisions are much more profound, such as who will become the next Supreme Court Justice, or whether or not our Nation will go to war.

No decision a Senator makes it more profound than our vote on an amendment to the Constitution. Amending the Constitution is an extraordinary legislative action that has occurred only a few times in our Nation's history.

The first 10 amendments, which we know as the Bill of Rights, were proposed and ratified almost immediately after the Constitution itself. In the next 200 years, only 16 amendments were proposed by Congress and ratified by the States.

This experience tells us that the balance and compromise crafted during the Constitutional Convention has served us very well. We are governed by a remarkably resilient document, and it is a tribute to our Founding Fathers that the Constitution has been amended so infrequently.

I am deeply concerned that the amendment we are now considering will upset the delicate balance of power forged during the Constitutional Convention of 1787. The balanced budget amendment would transfer fundamental spending and taxing authority from Congress to the executive branch. By this amendment, we would unravel mechanisms that our Founding Fathers delicately weaved into the fabric of the Constitution to keep the excesses of the executive, judicial, and legislative branches in check. I genuinely fear that the balanced budget

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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