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## Senate

The Senate met at 12:01 p.m., and was called to order by the Honorable PAT ROBERTS, a Senator from the State of Kansas.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, Sovereign of this Nation and Lord of our lives, our purpose is to glorify You by serving our Nation. We want to express energetic earnestness about our work today. Help us to know what You want and then want what we know; to say what we mean, and mean what we say. Give us resoluteness and intentionality. Free us to listen to You so intently that we can speak with intrepidity. Keep us in the battle for truth rather than ego skirmishes over secondary issues. Make us party to Your plans so we can give leadership to our parties, and then help our parties to work together to accomplish Your purposes. Make us one in the earnestness of patriotism.

Before us is a new week filled with more to do than we can accomplish on our own strength. Grant the Senators intellectual, emotional, and volitional strength to envision a week in which what is truly important gets done. Help them expeditiously to move through the supplemental appropriations legislation and amendments listening to each other and making guided decisions. Lift our anchors out of the mud of any combative competition, lift our sails, and remind us that it is Your set of our sails and not the gales that determine where we shall go. In the name of our Lord and Savior. Amen.

### 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. THURMOND].

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 5, 1997.

### To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PAT ROBERTS, a Senator from the State of Kansas, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,  
*President pro tempore.*

Mr. ROBERTS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

Mr. MURKOWSKI addressed the Chair.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I thank the Chair and wish the occupant a good day.

### COMPLIMENTING THE CHAPLAIN

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I compliment the Chaplain for the inspirational message, which I think challenges us all to focus in on the priorities.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, for the information of all Senators, today the Senate will begin consideration of Senate bill 672, the supplemental appropriations bill. Amendments are expected to be offered to this bill today. However, there will be no votes during today's session. The majority leader will notify all Members as early as possible with respect to rollcall votes on these amendments which will occur during Tuesday's session of the Senate.

It is the intention of the majority leader that the Senate complete action on this important bill this week. The Senate could also be asked to turn to any other Legislative or Executive Calendar items that can be cleared for action.

As always, the majority leader will notify Senators as soon as any agree-

ments are reached on scheduling votes on the supplemental appropriations bill or on other matters.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING 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 1 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for not to exceed 5 minutes each.

(The remarks of Mr. MURKOWSKI pertaining to the introduction of S. 691 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. WELLSTONE addressed the Chair.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

### THE BUDGET AGREEMENT

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the budget agreement. Let me start out with a little bit of context. I will just read a figure from the fine work of the Center on Budget Priorities. In the last Congress, the 104th Congress, more than 93 percent of the budget reductions in entitlement programs came from programs for low-income people.

Mr. President, in the last Congress, we cut about \$50 billion in assistance for legal immigrants and also in the major food and nutrition program in this country, the Food Stamp Program. Please remember, Mr. President, that the vast majority of the beneficiaries of the Food Stamp Program are children in working-poor families, on the average, with an income of below \$6,500 a year. Those benefits were cut by 20 percent over the next 5 years—a 20-percent cut.

Mr. President, I give that by way of background because now we have a

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



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