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Senate

The Senate met at 9:33 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LINCOLN D. CHAFEE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

PRAYER

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

Almighty God, Sovereign of this planet within this universe among universes, by Your plan and power the Earth has revolved around the Sun, and You have blessed us with a new day. Today will be like no other day past or to come. We praise You for the privilege of being alive. Help us to trust You with all of the challenges and opportunities ahead of us today. We commit them to You. Go before us to prepare the way. We want to be so in tune with You that what we do and say will accomplish Your will.

May we sense Your presence and make this day one of constant inner conversation with You. As the Senators practice Your presence, help them to trust You to guide their thinking. Give them a special measure of wisdom, insight, and discernment to tackle the problems that arise today. May this be a productive day as they hear and accept the psalmist's prescription for peace: *Cast your burden on the Lord, and He shall sustain you.*—

Psalm 55:22. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LINCOLN D. CHAFEE 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. THURMOND).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 22, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable LINCOLN D. CHAFEE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,
President pro tempore.

Mr. LINCOLN D. CHAFEE thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Carolina is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, I announce on behalf of the majority leader, today the Senate will resume voting on final amendments to the reconciliation bill. Consecutive votes will occur throughout the morning and will include final passage of the bill. It is hoped the Senate will complete action as soon as possible in order to resume consideration of the education bill. There are amendments pending to the education bill, and others will be offered during today's session. There will be many votes throughout the day, and Senators are encouraged to stay in the Senate Chamber during final votes on this tax bill.

On behalf of the majority leader, I thank my colleagues for their cooperation.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

RESTORING EARNINGS TO LIFT INDIVIDUALS AND EMPOWER FAMILIES (RELIEF) ACT OF 2001

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 1836, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1836) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 104 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2002.

Pending:

Collins/Warner amendment No. 675, to provide an above-the-line deduction for qualified professional development expenses of elementary and secondary school teachers and to allow a credit against income tax to elementary and secondary school teachers who provide classroom materials.

Feingold/Kohl amendment No. 724, to eliminate the Medicaid death tax.

Feingold amendment No. 725, to increase the income limits applicable to the 10 percent rate bracket for individual income taxes.

Feingold motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report back within three days.

Reid amendment No. 726, to preserve the estate tax for estates of more than \$100 million in size and increase the income limits applicable to the 10 percent rate bracket for individual income taxes.

Reid (for Harkin) amendment No. 727, to delay the effective date of the reductions in the tax rate relating to the highest rate bracket until the enactment of legislation that ensures the long-term solvency of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds.

Lincoln amendment No. 711, to eliminate expenditures for tuition, fees, and room and board as qualified elementary and secondary education expenses for distributions made from education individual retirement accounts.

Kerry amendment No. 721, to exempt individual taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes below \$100,000 from the alternative minimum tax and modify the reduction in the top marginal rate.

Lieberman/Daschle amendment No. 693, to provide immediate tax refund checks to help boost the economy and help families pay for

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



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