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No. 15

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 26, 2002, at 2 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2002

The Senate met at 10 a.m., and was called to order by the Hon. HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

PRAYER

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

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Know that the Lord, He is God.—Psalm 100:1-3a.

Joyous God, we praise You for Your joy that is an outward expression of Your grace. When we experience Your giving, forgiving, unqualified love, the ecstasy of the joy of Heaven fills our hearts with exuberant joy. Your joy is so much greater than happiness, which is dependent on circumstances, the attitudes of others, and being free from problems. Thank You that Your joy flows within us with artesian force regardless of what is occurring to us or around us. Fill the wells of our souls with Your joy that nothing can dampen, so that we can express joy regardless of what happens. You are by our side, You are on our side, and You are abiding inside to make us communicators of affirmation and encouragement to others. Your joy fails not; it is fresh each new day, new zest for each challenge and courage for each step of the way. Thank You for Your lasting joy! Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable HARRY REID 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. BYRD.)

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 15, 2002.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of Rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. NELSON of Florida). The acting majority leader is recognized.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

EQUAL PROTECTION OF VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 565, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 565) to establish the Commission on Voting Rights and Procedures to study and make recommendations regarding election technology, voting, and election administration, to establish a grant program under which the Office of Justice Programs and the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice shall provide assistance to States and localities in improving election technology and the administration of Federal elections, to require States to meet uniform and nondiscriminatory election technology and administration requirements for the 2004 Federal elections, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Clinton amendment No. 2906, to establish a residual ballot performance benchmark.

Dayton amendment No. 2898, to establish a pilot program for free postage for absentee ballots cast in elections for Federal office.

Dodd (for Harkin) amendment No. 2912, to provide funds for protection and advocacy systems of each State to ensure full participation in the electoral process for individuals with disabilities.

Dodd (for Harkin/McCain) amendment No. 2913, to express the sense of the Congress that curbside voting should be only an alternative of last resort when providing accommodations for disabled voters.

Dodd (for Schumer) modified amendment No. 2914, to permit the use of a signature or personal mark for the purpose of verifying the identity of voters who register by mail.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

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



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