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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable E. BENJAMIN NELSON, a Senator from the State of Nebraska.

PRAYER

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

Lord God of truth, who calls us to absolute honesty in everything we say, we renew our commitment to truth. In a time in which people no longer expect to hear the truth, or what's worse, don't see the need consistently to speak it, make us straight arrows who hit the target of absolute honesty. Help us to be people on whom others always can depend for unswerving integrity.

May the reliability of our words earn us the right to give righteous leadership. Thank You for the wonderful freedom that comes from a consistency between what we promise and what we do. You are present where truth is spoken. Thank You for reigning supreme in this Senate Chamber today. In the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable E. BENJAMIN NELSON 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, March 20, 2002.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable E. BENJAMIN NELSON, a Senator from the State of Nebraska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. E. BENJAMIN NELSON thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. The Senate will resume consideration of the Campaign Finance Reform Act in a brief minute or two. The Senate will vote on cloture at 1 p.m. We have received word there may be an effort to move the vote up a little bit because of a meeting at the White House. We will be happy to take that under consideration. If cloture is invoked, there will be an additional 3 hours of debate prior to final passage of campaign finance reform.

We have already had a number of requests for people to speak between 12 and 1 p.m. We would like to reserve that time for the two leaders and those who have been so active in supporting this bill: Senators FEINGOLD and MCCAIN, and Senators MCCONNELL and GRAMM in opposition thereto. People desiring to speak on this legislation should get over here and do that now because the time between 12 and when we vote on this will be jammed with Members most directly involved on the bill.

We will move this vote up if the minority wants us to do that, and we ask Members to move as quickly as possible.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we have ended up with a little more time

on this debate than we earlier thought. As the principal opponent of the bill, I want to lock in a time for my final statement on the bill. Should cloture be invoked and we are in the 3-hour postcloture period, I ask unanimous consent I be allowed to give my final statement at 2 p.m.

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

The Republican leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I apologize to Senator REID. I came in as he was wrapping up his remarks.

With regard to the time on the vote at 1 p.m., there has been some indication maybe we could start that vote 10 minutes earlier. What is anticipated?

Mr. REID. I indicated there has been some talk of that. I will discuss that with the majority leader. It probably would work to everyone's advantage to move that up. We will do that as soon as possible.

If I could have the attention of the Senator from Kentucky, just so we could have some idea because other people wish to speak, do you have an idea how long you wish to speak at 2 p.m.? You can have as much time as you want.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I believe I control the time on this side, unless the leader wants to control the time. I could use up to an hour during that period, beginning at 2 p.m.

I have one other request on this side for an extensive amount of time, and that is Senator GRAMM of Texas, who was going to speak from 12 to 1, but I gather others are requesting that same period.

Mr. REID. In response to my friend from Kentucky, what we are going to try to do, even though it is not part of the consent, is work back and forth on the time. Senator GRAMM certainly deserves extended time on this most important issue. I was thinking we would do it by process of elimination: majority leader, the minority leader wishes

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



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