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Senate

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

PRAYER

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

The psalmist expresses our deepest longing this morning, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer."—Psalm 19:14. Let us pray.

Gracious God, You have shown us that the meditation of our hearts and the reflection of our inner being often affect our spoken words. It's true of our prayers: muddled thinking about You results in halting prayers. The connection of the meditation of our hearts and the words of our mouths is manifested in our human relationships: what we think about others affects what we say to them. Also, our prayerful meditation about issues and the application of our beliefs and values impact how we express our convictions and how we cast our votes. Often, what we think speaks so loudly in our attitudes that others can't hear what we say.

So, Lord, we pray that the meditation of our hearts will reflect Your justice and mercy and what we say will articulate Your truth and righteousness. You are our Lord and Saviour. 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, June 19, 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

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 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

Under the previous order, the first half of the time shall be under the control of the majority leader or his designee.

Under the previous order, the time until 11 a.m.—that is, from 10:30 to 11—shall be under the control of the Republican leader or his designee.

Who seeks recognition?

The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is my understanding the first hour, if I am not mistaken—

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The first half-hour is under the control of the Democrats.

Mr. DURBIN. I know the Senator from New Jersey is going to seek recognition.

I see the Senator from Pennsylvania is in the Chamber. I do not know if he is seeking recognition this morning. I would certainly like to accommodate him if he is going to make a request for a reasonable period of time.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I thank my colleague from Illinois. I would very much appreciate an opportunity to speak for 5 minutes, if I might, at some early point.

Mr. DURBIN. I am happy to extend that courtesy to my colleague from Pennsylvania.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the order, the 5 minutes of the Republican time will be used at this time; is that it?

Mr. DURBIN. That is correct.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, first, I thank the Senator from Illinois for according me this courtesy.

PROPOSED RULE FOR THE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to discuss, briefly, a proposed rule for the Republican conference on the issue of seniority for members, chairmanships, and also for ranking members.

Effective January 1, 1997, the Republican caucus adopted a rule which provided that there would be a 6-year limit on committee chairmanships and ranking members; chairmanships, of course, if in the majority, ranking members if in the minority.

There has since arisen a controversy as to whether that meant 6 years as chairman and an additional 6 years as ranking member or whether that meant 6 years total for chairman and ranking member.

Having participated in the conference which produced the rule, I think it is fair to say that the intent was to have a total 6-year limitation,

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



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