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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DEBBIE STABENOW, a Senator from the State of Michigan.

PRAYER

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

Gracious God, we are grateful for the assurance of Your presence, available at all times, dependable in all circumstances, bracing when we need correction, and inspiring when we need courage. Lead on, Lord, as we press on. The day stretches out before us filled with debate, deliberations, and decisions. Keep us calm as we trust You and reassured as You replenish our reserves. You have promised never to leave or forsake us. Grant the Senators a renewed assurance of Your wisdom for each complex problem. You are the source of creative insight, inventive solutions, and decisive intentionality. Fill this Chamber with Your presence, each Senator with an acute sense of accountability to You, and all of America with the privilege of being one Nation under Your providential care and Your protective concern. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable DEBBIE STABENOW 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 5, 2002.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable DEBBIE STABENOW, a Senator from the State of Michigan, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Ms. STABENOW 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. Madam President, the two managers of the bill will be here shortly to continue with this most important Interior appropriations bill. Debate will continue until 12 noon, at which time we will have an hour of morning business, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the Democrats controlling the second half.

At 1 p.m., the Senate will resume consideration of the Homeland Security Act.

There have been amendments laid down—both on the Interior bill and the homeland security bill.

Today will be the last business day of the Senate this week because of the ceremony in New York tomorrow. I hope we can make progress on both of these most important pieces of legislation.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2003

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 5093, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: A bill (H.R. 5903) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for fiscal year ending September 30, 2003, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Byrd amendment No. 4472, in the nature of a substitute.

Byrd amendment No. 4480 (to amendment No. 4472) to provide funds to repay accounts from which funds were borrowed for emergency wildfire suppression.

Daschle modified amendment No. 4481 (to amendment No. 4472), to provide emergency disaster assistance to agricultural producers.

Mr. REID. Madam President, until we hear from Senator BYRD, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The clerk will continue to call the roll.

The legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. BYRD. Madam President, I apologize to the distinguished Senator from Minnesota, Mr. WELLSTONE, for my having objected to his calling off an earlier quorum. My reason for doing that was so that we, the two managers, could get certain amendments in order

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



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