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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, March 24, 2003, at 2 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2003

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CRAIG THOMAS, a Senator from the State of Wyoming.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by Rev. Charles V. Antonicelli, St. Joseph's Church on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Almighty Father, we bow before Your majesty in thanksgiving and praise. Help us to remember always that all we have comes from You.

Dear Lord, our thoughts and prayers this day rightly turn to the men and women of our military who are in harm's way. We implore You to watch over them and keep them safe. Watch over all civilians, too, Lord, and protect them from harm.

We long for "the tender compassion of our God" so that "the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace." (Luke 1:78-79)

Gracious God, grant Your wisdom and love to all men and women of good will, especially those who serve in this Senate. Be their constant guide. Show them Your goodness today.

We ask this in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CRAIG THOMAS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Repub-

lic 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. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 21, 2003.

To the Senate:

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

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. THOMAS thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 23, the concurrent budget resolution. The time until 9:45 a.m. will be used for debate, prior to the first vote which will begin promptly at 9:45.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

I ask unanimous consent that following the first vote, the time until 10:45 be equally divided for debate between the chairman and ranking member or their designees; provided further that the next vote in the sequence begin at 10:45.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. It is my understanding that the two leaders are scheduled to go to the White House. Is that the reason? I want to make sure everyone understands that the majority leader is going to do what he can to move this bill and the fact that there is this window is not going to happen during the rest of the day; is that right?

Mr. FRIST. That is correct. The Democratic leader and the majority leader will be meeting with the President of the United States for a period of about 30 minutes to discuss the war. There will be a pause, and then after 10:45 we would expect votes to occur with 10-minute intervals thereafter.

Mr. REID. How many votes are we going to have this morning before the majority leader is obligated to leave?

Mr. FRIST. There will be one vote at 9:45, and then we will depart. We will resume voting at 10:45 or thereabouts.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, last night the chairman and ranking member of the Budget Committee reached an

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



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