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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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agreement for the consideration of the first 10 amendments today. With the first 10 votes scripted, it will allow Members to review and prepare for the first couple of hours in the voting sequence.

I encourage Members who intend to offer amendments to notify the chairman or the ranking member so that their amendments can be placed in the sequence of votes. At this time, we are not encouraging further amendments. However, if Members feel compelled to offer them, I ask courtesy of that notification.

I remind all Senators that once the voting sequence begins at 10:45, Senators should remain in the Chamber or close by to avoid missing any votes. We will need to limit the votes in the sequence to 10 minutes each. We will stay until this resolution is completed. It may be a lengthy session today in order to conclude the process. I thank Members for their cooperation.

DEATH IN COMBAT

Mr. FRIST. In America this morning, there are several families who have awakened to the worst possible news: the death in combat of a father, a brother, or a son. In our thoughts and prayers today, I ask my colleagues to remember those who have sacrificed so much on the battlefields in the Persian Gulf. Every life is precious. Our mission goes on. Our military will complete the course our leaders have set. In the Senate and in everyday life, we should honor that sacrifice in how we comport ourselves.

Our service men and women are honorable, patriotic Americans, serving the cause of liberty, our liberty. I pray to God that we who have the honor to represent them continue to act in a manner worthy of them.

In this difficult time, I ask my colleagues to measure their words to remember those who are privileged to serve and to aspire to that same level of greatness. We will debate and we will disagree. We will differ in how we vote, but we are all Americans. The losses we have incurred will serve as a constant reminder for how fortunate we are for just that.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 23, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 23) setting forth the congressional budget for

the U.S. Government for fiscal year 2004 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2003 and for fiscal years 2005 through 2013.

Pending:

Schumer amendment No. 299, to provide immediate assistance to meet pressing homeland security needs by providing funding in 2003 for first responders, port security, bioterrorism preparedness and prevention, border security and transit security, the FBI; to restore the elimination of funding of the COPS program, firefighter equipment grants, Byrne Grants and Local Law enforcement grants; to provide a sustained commitment of resources for homeland security needs without reducing funding to other key domestic law enforcement and public safety priorities; and to reduce the deficit.

Brownback amendment No. 282, to express the sense of the Senate that a commission be established to review the efficiency of Federal agencies.

Conrad (for Feingold/Corzine) amendment No. 270, to set aside a reserve fund for possible military action and reconstruction in Iraq.

Breaux Amendment No. 339, to reduce tax cuts by \$375 billion and to reduce projected deficits by \$464 billion.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 9:45 will be equally divided between the chairman and the ranking member of the Budget Committee.

Who yields time?

Mr. REID. On behalf of Senator CONRAD, we yield time to the Senator from New York.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New York.

AMENDMENT NO. 299

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the first vote will be on the amendment that I offered, along with many of my colleagues: Senator CLINTON, Senator DASCHLE, Senator BYRD, and Senator LIEBERMAN. It is the homeland security amendment that we debated. I remind my colleagues how important homeland security is, how we have to fight a good offense. Praise God, it seems as if that is going quite well in Iraq. It is also very important for us to fight defense and we have not been doing an adequate job.

I believe Senator COCHRAN will offer an alternative version later on today, but I would make two points about the Schumer amendment as opposed to the Cochran amendment. One is that the Cochran amendment is not as generous, as I understand it. I have just received it. It is even in this fiscal year, the 2003 fiscal year, when our police officers, our firefighters are hurting from one end of the country to the other, when our port security is not what it should be, when our rail security is not what it should be, the Cochran amendment is considerably lower.

I am sure if my colleagues go back and ask their police and fire departments which amendment they prefer, it is the Schumer amendment.

Second and more important, we have close to a \$700 billion tax cut. We also have programs on education, on health care, on transportation, the FBI and everything else. The alternative amendment cuts every one of those.

Are my colleagues going to tell their police departments that they are going to take away Byrne grants and COPS money to give them this money? Are they going to take away fire money to give them this money? Are they going to cut road building? Are they going to cut the FBI? Are they going to cut everything that is in function 920 to do homeland security? Just as we should not be pitting the defense and the money needed for our soldiers overseas against domestic needs like education, health care and transportation, we should not be pitting homeland security against that. I ask my colleagues to think about it. We have a huge tax cut. This amendment takes a very small amount—in a quick calculation—less than 1 or 2 percent of that tax cut.

Where should the money come from? I don't believe we are actually going to cut education any further, no matter what this budget resolution does. I don't believe we will cut health care any further. I don't think we will cut road building any further. They are stretched to the bone because of the necessities of the budget.

This amendment offers the real chance at homeland security. This is the amendment. To insist that every dollar of the tax cut must be sacrosanct while we sacrifice the rest of the Government—when your school boards come to you, when your hospitals come to you, when your construction companies come to you, and your Governors and mayors and, of course, your police chiefs and firefighters, are you going to say you let them down?

I urge, I hope, I pray; this is a time when we need unity. There is no problem, none whatever, with taking a small amount, a total over 10 years of \$38 billion, a total of over \$5 billion this fiscal year, 2003, and next year, 2004, getting to \$8 billion, out of that tax cut because that will fund homeland security.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this amendment and stand up for their local police, their local firefighters, their local schools.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the two leaders have agreed the second vote should start at 10:30 and I ask unanimous consent that that be the case.

Mr. NICKLES. I have no objection.

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

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, just for the information of our colleagues, we will have a vote to begin in a couple minutes on the Schumer amendment, and then the second vote will begin at 10:30 on the Cochran amendment that is also in relation to homeland security.

I urge my colleagues, with great respect, to oppose the Schumer amendment. His amendment would add \$88 billion over 10 years for a variety of homeland security programs, law enforcement assistance. I contacted the