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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. STEVENS].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Dr. Sheila C. Gustafson, of the First Presbyterian Church in Sante Fe, NM.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Eternal Spirit of God, You are in all our beginnings and all our endings, and You are with us at the beginning of this day's session of the Senate. We pray for the Senators here gathered, and for those who are about our Nation's business in other places and in other ways, that this day might offer new opportunities for creative service.

We pray for them fresh perspectives on perplexing problems, and new opportunities for cooperation. May they model for our people, and for the people of the world, a process of corporate discernment which allows inspired solutions to emerge to the challenges we face as a Nation and global community. And grant each one of them, we pray, the physical, mental, and spiritual stamina to persevere in support of truth and justice.

Author of liberty, we are grateful that we are privileged to live in a nation of abundance and freedom. We know that to whom much has been given, much is expected. Bless the Senators who work on our behalf to fulfill our country's great calling and responsibility. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the Senator will conduct a period of morning business to allow Senators to speak. Following morning business, at approximately 10:30, the Senate will begin consideration of the conference report to accompany the Defense appropriations bill. Senators STEVENS and INOUE will be ready to give their remarks at that time. It is my hope that we can schedule the vote on that conference report prior to noon.

Yesterday, we completed two conference reports—the Homeland Security and the legislative appropriations reports. I thank Senators COCHRAN, CAMPBELL, and the ranking members for assisting in getting these ready for the floor for full Senate consideration.

Following the Defense appropriations conference report passage, we will consider the remaining available judicial nominations and another two or three still on the Executive Calendar that hopefully we will be able to clear. There is a standing request from the other side of the aisle that a rollcall vote be held on judicial nominations and, therefore, we will schedule those votes accordingly.

We will resume consideration of the District of Columbia appropriations bill today. Senator DEWINE has been actively engaged in working through a number of possible amendments to that bill. I hope we can make substantial progress today toward finishing that measure.

We have a number of the appropriations bills and conference reports to consider, and we will consider those as they become available. I thank Members for their cooperation in this regard.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if I could, through the Chair, ask the distin-

guished leader a question, we have a number of Jewish Members who are concerned about tomorrow. They want to be home by sundown. We have at least one Senator who would like to be home in California in time for observance of the holiday. I am wondering if the leader has made a decision about tomorrow yet because of the holiday.

Mr. FRIST. We will discuss tomorrow's schedule over the course of the morning. We will let people know. Obviously, we will take that into strong consideration in terms of scheduling votes for tomorrow. I do expect us to be voting in the morning. But in terms of specifics, we will have announcements as we go through the day.

Very shortly we will be going into morning business, but I want to make several comments.

As most people know, my colleagues and others, we have made a concerted effort to respond to the President of the United States in terms of emergency requests to support our troops and our military efforts overseas—the men and women who are fighting for freedom and democracy. Thus, over the course of this week, we have held a number of hearings at the committee level with the hopes that we would be able to end at a reasonable but as short a time as possible so as to bring that request to the floor of the Senate in order to have plenty of time to both look at amendments and to debate, discuss, and examine the specifics of that request.

We are going into a recess at the end of next week. That is what is anticipated now. As I said last week, knowing that the supplemental would be delivered last week, we immediately began to set up a 2-week period by which the Senators would have sufficient and adequate time to address this particular request. This week, we had over 30 hours of hearings at the committee level.

The distinguished President pro tempore attended most of those hearings.

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



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