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Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, September 29, 2003)

The Senate met at 9:15 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Majestic God, our hope of eternity, thank You for sunshine and cool breezes. Thank You also for knowing us and accepting us as we are. Make us today instruments of Your glory. Help each of us to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance, and gentleness. Lord, take from us pride and conceit that make us legends in our own minds. Fill our Senators with Your spirit that their feet will not wander from the path of integrity. Give them comfort and direction when they are troubled or perplexed. Keep them from selfishness and give them the courage to live each day as Your children and as brothers and sisters to one another. Whisper words of counsel for their moments of decision. We pray this in Your holy name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, 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. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 30, 2003.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,

President pro tempore.

Mr. SUNUNU 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 immediately proceed to executive session and vote on two judicial nominations. The first vote will be on the nomination of Marcia Crone, to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas. The second vote will be on the nomination of Ronald White to be a United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Oklahoma.

Following the two judge votes, the Senate will begin a period of morning business until 11:30 a.m. Following morning business, the Senate will resume debate on H.R. 2765, the District of Columbia appropriations bill.

I reiterate that it is our desire to complete the DC appropriations bill today. The managers have been here awaiting further action on the bill; however, Members have not come forward with their amendments. If Senators have concerns regarding the legislation, if Senators disagree with the underlying bill, I hope they will offer their amendments and allow the Senate to decide the issue and ultimately complete this bill.

Also, today the Appropriations Committee will be marking up the emergency supplemental request for Iraq's security. It is my intention to turn to the consideration of that measure as soon as it is available. Rollcall votes are therefore possible today and throughout the remaining sessions this week as we consider and complete our business with respect to the Iraq supplemental.

The Senate will stand in recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. today for the weekly party conferences.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MARCIA A. CRONE, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Marcia A. Crone, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there are now 2 minutes for debate equally divided prior to the vote on the nomination.

The Senator from Texas.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to speak in support of the confirmation of Judge Marcia Crone. She is a native of Dallas and alumna of the University of Texas. She will preside over a newly created seat

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



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