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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHUCK HAGEL, a Senator from the State of Nebraska.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, who lives and reigns in majesty, thank You for another opportunity to help people see Your power working through human effort. Thank You also for the wonderful law of sowing and reaping that inspires us with the knowledge that no good is ever lost. Thank You for unsung heroes and heroines who work behind the curtains to make this Senate great. As we strive to mend broken hearts and to repair shattered dreams, give us Your favor. Use Your Senators today and all who labor for Your glory as ambassadors of reconciliation and renewal as they glorify Your Name. Teach us to cherish the things that inspire and steady our hands to grasp the torch of freedom and illuminate the darkness of our world. We pray this in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHUCK HAGEL 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 assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 9, 2004.

To the Senate:

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

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished assistant majority leader.

SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will resume debate on the budget resolution. Under the order from last night, 40 hours remain for consideration of the resolution. We anticipate the amendment process will begin today and, therefore, Senators can expect rollcall votes throughout today's session.

I remind my colleagues that the majority leader has stated we will finish the budget resolution this week. Therefore, late night sessions, obviously, can be expected, and Senators should make their plans accordingly.

Having said that, I believe we are ready for the resolution to be reported.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the

Senate will resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 95, which the clerk will now report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 95) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2005 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2006 through 2009.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Who yields time?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I would like to ask a question of the distinguished acting majority leader.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am wondering if a decision has been made as to what we are going to do tonight at 7 o'clock or thereabouts. As the leader knows, we have the Archives dinner. In fact, it will be the last dinner that will ever be held in the Rotunda, for a number of reasons. That is going to be tonight. It is a bipartisan dinner. I wonder if a decision has been made yet as to what is going to be done, whether we are going to stay in session or whether there will be time yielded off the resolution during the time we are there.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I say to my friend from Nevada, the plan will be to stay in session, unless we can reach an agreement to yield back time.

Mr. REID. I would also ask, through the Chair to the distinguished whip, has there been a decision made as to what we are going to do during the normal recess we take on Tuesdays for party caucuses?

Mr. MCCONNELL. I think, at the risk of being redundant, our plan would be, if we could get an agreement to equally yield back time, we would recess for those lunches; otherwise, we would try to press through.

Mr. REID. So there can be some planning, I wonder if the two managers have any objection to having that done as it relates to the noontime recess we normally take on Tuesdays, with that time equally divided.

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



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