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Senate

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PAT ROBERTS, a Senator from the State of Kansas.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Sovereign Lord, You are the shepherd of our souls. Because of You, blessings overtake us. Thank You for this Nation, a beacon of freedom dispelling the darkness of tyranny. Thank You also for inscribing each of us on the palms of Your hands.

Lord, guide our lawmakers today and those who labor with them. Give them strength to meet temptations and the peace of heaven for life's storms. Remind them that the way to find life is to lose it in service for others. Surround us all with Your favor and complete the work You have started in each of us. We pray this in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable PAT ROBERTS 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, March 29, 2004.

To the Senate:

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

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ROBERTS assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we will be in consideration of H.R. 4, the welfare reauthorization bill. Chairman GRASSLEY will be here shortly and is prepared for Senators to come forward with their amendments to the bill. I previously announced there will be no rollcall votes today and any votes offered today will be delayed until tomorrow, Tuesday.

As we begin this important bill, once again I ask Members to refrain from offering unrelated issues to the underlying welfare reauthorization. There are a number of Senators who have welfare-related amendments they will want to have debated and discussed and disposed of. It is my hope we can work through those amendments and not allow extraneous items to delay us and postpone us from making progress on this bill.

I thank Members for their consideration as we begin this important bill, a bill that affects millions of Americans today and indeed in the future.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT FOR EVERYONE ACT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to consideration of H.R. 4, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4) to reauthorize and improve the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families, improve access to quality child care, and for other purposes.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Finance, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

(Strike the part shown in black brackets and insert the part shown in italic.)

[SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

[This Act may be cited as the "Personal Responsibility, Work, and Family Promotion Act of 2003".

[SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

[The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

- [Sec. 1. Short title.
- [Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- [Sec. 3. References.
- [Sec. 4. Findings.

[TITLE I—TANF

- [Sec. 101. Purposes.
- [Sec. 102. Family assistance grants.
- [Sec. 103. Promotion of family formation and healthy marriage.
- [Sec. 104. Supplemental grant for population increases in certain States.
- [Sec. 105. Bonus to reward employment achievement.
- [Sec. 106. Contingency fund.
- [Sec. 107. Use of funds.
- [Sec. 108. Repeal of Federal loan for State welfare programs.
- [Sec. 109. Universal engagement and family self-sufficiency plan requirements.
- [Sec. 110. Work participation requirements.
- [Sec. 111. Maintenance of effort.
- [Sec. 112. Performance improvement.
- [Sec. 113. Data collection and reporting.
- [Sec. 114. Direct funding and administration by Indian tribes.

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



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