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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal spirit, You have set up the sky like a canopy and spread it out like a tent. You placed in order the chorus of the stars to praise Your goodness. Drive us from wrong desires and teach us to live for Your honor. Preserve us with Your mighty power that we may not fall into sin, nor be overcome by adversity. Guide our lawmakers today that in their labors for country they may serve Your providential purposes. Make them willing to stand for right, regardless of the consequences. May they strive foremost to please You. Guide and govern us by Your spirit that in all the cares and occupations of life we may never forget You. Direct us to the fulfilling of Your divine design. We pray 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, July 15, 2004.

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, today's session will begin with a period for morning business for up to 60 minutes. Following morning business, we will proceed to the FSC/ETI or the JOBS bill as the order from last night provides. That agreement allows for one amendment to be considered under a 3-hour time agreement.

Following the disposition of that DeWine-Kennedy amendment, we will proceed to passage of the bill and then request a conference with the House. I do want to express my appreciation to everyone for last night as we reached this agreement well into the evening. With the tariff's increasing impact on our manufacturers, it is imperative that we get this bill to conference so we can finally produce a bill to send to the President.

Again, I want to thank the Senators on both sides of the aisle, especially the Democratic leadership, working with our leadership in bringing this bill to conference.

Today we will also consider another important bill, the Australia free-trade bill, under the statutory time limit of 20 hours. Several Senators spoke on that issue yesterday, and I hope that on both sides we will be able to yield back a lot of that time and complete this bill at an early hour today. We will stack the vote in relation to the

FSC/ETI amendment for later this afternoon, possibly with a vote on passage of the Australia free-trade measure. The timing for those votes will be discussed and we will let our colleagues know a little bit later this morning.

Senators should therefore expect votes later this afternoon, those two votes for sure.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with the first half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee and the second half of the time under the control of the majority leader or his designee.

Who seeks time?

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I will use my leader time and not have that time counted against the Democratic time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from South Dakota is recognized.

ISSUES CONFRONTING RURAL AMERICA

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, farming, ranching, and agriculture and agri-related businesses continue to play a

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



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