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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2005, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2005

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICHARD BURR, a Senator from the State of North Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The opening prayer will be given by our guest Chaplain, COL Ralph G. Benson, Pentagon Chaplain.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Won't you pray with me.

Lord God, Creator and Sustainer of the universe. You uplift us in times of prosperity and comfort us in times of want. You are the still small voice who reminds us of all that is good, all that is holy, all that is just. We live in an unstable world. Yet You, O Lord, are never changing, all forgiving, all merciful, all holy.

Provide today, O Lord, Your divine guidance and blessing. Allow our Senators to hear Your still small voice. Open their discussions to that which will bless our people and crown our Nation with blessing.

Enable us to avoid the pitfalls of sin and direct us to those decisions that are merciful, holy, and true. May we magnify Your will through our endeavors in Government today. For indeed, Lord, our desire is to please You and to follow the leadings of Your divine will. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICHARD BURR led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic 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, April 11, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICHARD BURR, a Senator from the State of North Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. BURR 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, the Senate will begin this afternoon with a period for morning business to allow Senators to make statements and introduce legislation. At 3 p.m. today, Chairman COCHRAN will be here to begin consideration of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for

defense, the global war on terror, and tsunami relief. I expect opening statements on that bill during the afternoon. I also hope if Senators have amendments, they will begin to offer those amendments during today's session. At the very least, Senators should notify the cloakrooms of their desire to offer specific amendments so that the chairman and ranking member may begin the process of scheduling their considerations.

I remind all Senators we have a vote scheduled this afternoon at 5:30 on the confirmation of a U.S. district judge. That is the nomination of Paul Crotty to the Southern District of New York. In addition to that vote, we have a resolution relating to airbus that we will likely schedule for a rollcall vote. Therefore, Senators can expect at least two votes today. I add that if amendments are offered to the appropriations bill today, I will also be talking to the managers of the bill and the Democratic leader about scheduling votes on those as well.

This important bill provides necessary funds for the ongoing operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as additional funding for humanitarian assistance related to the tsunami. I hope the Senate will act effectively and efficiently on this appropriations bill and use the underlying legislation as focus of the intent of this bill and not as target practice for other amendments. There has been a lot of discussion over the issue of immigration. I believe the Senate will need to address immigration reform. However, this is not the place for comprehensive immigration reform. We need to be thoughtful and

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



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