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Senate

The Senate met at 9:46 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PATRICK J. LEAHY, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The visiting Chaplain today, Father Claude Pomerleau, will lead the Senate in prayer.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Father in heaven, beloved Creator of the mountains and the wooded valleys from whose fullness we have all received, direct our steps in our everyday efforts. Your presence in the resounding rivers and quiet breezes, in the fertile plains and dry deserts powerfully yet gently guides all the moments of our day and brings those necessary moments of beauty and peace into our lives.

Go before us in our pilgrimage of life, anticipate our needs, and prevent our falling. We are all hungry for the fullness of joy that only You can give. Send Your Spirit to unite us in our search for a better world, and especially to enlighten and guide all legislators who serve You by working for the common good. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable PATRICK J. LEAHY 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.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair is honored to be able to ask the Senator from Vermont to introduce his distinguished relative.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the majority leader.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, very briefly, this morning we have set aside a period of morning business for the first 60 minutes. Following that time, we will return to the consideration of the Transportation-Treasury-HUD appropriations bill. Last night, we entered into an agreement which will allow Senators BROWNBACK and LANDRIEU to offer the DC appropriations bill at 11 o'clock this morning. Following their statements, we expect a vote on that amendment. That will be a voice vote.

Also under our order from last night, at 12:10 today, we will vote on the Kyl amendment relating to a freeze of the Members' COLA or cost-of-living adjustment. After that vote, we will recess for our scheduled policy luncheons.

We will return to the bill this afternoon, and we will have additional votes on amendments to the appropriations measure. It would also be helpful to have a filing deadline so that the two managers will be better able to manage the amendments as they come forward. Today, I will be talking to the Democratic leader about a unanimous consent for that deadline.

We need to finish this appropriations bill this week. We will finish this appropriations bill this week. It does mean we may need to be voting on Friday in order to accomplish that, and we will be here on Friday to accomplish that if necessary.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The 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 majority leader or his designee and the second half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee.

The Chair recognizes the distinguished Senator from Vermont.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, with the distinguished majority leader on the floor, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to go forward for 3 or 4 minutes on Senator REID's time and go out of order at this point.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, first, I note my dear friend of over 30 years, the distinguished senior Senator from Alaska, is in the chair, the President pro tempore of the Senate. I note that the President pro tempore showed his usual courtesy, instead of taking the chair initially to open the session, as he would, to allow me to do so to introduce my brother-in-law, Father Claude Pomerleau.

I also note that our distinguished Chaplain, Dr. Barry Black, is here. I thank the Chaplain for his cooperation in making sure that Father Pomerleau could open the session.

Of course, I thank the distinguished majority leader, Senator FRIST, and the distinguished Democratic leader, Senator REID.

Mr. President, I note that Father Pomerleau is a very close member of our family. He is probably not used to hearing me call him Father Pomerleau; it has always been Claude. He was on the altar—not yet a priest but in the seminary—when my wife Marcelle and I were married slightly over 43 years ago. And 40 years ago this December, the two of us were able to be with his

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



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