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No. 5

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 31, 2006, at noon.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2006

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, who has given us grace in times past and hope for the years to come, strengthen us to continue to grow in grace and in our knowledge of You. Quicken our hearts with warmer affection for You and Your creation. Stir up the talents in each of us and give us a desire to serve You and humanity.

Bless the Members of this body and the staffs that serve them. Increase their faith as You increase their years. Give them the moral fitness to live lives of integrity and faithfulness. May they not falter under the burdens they are asked to carry in these uncertain days. Bless them with clear minds and open eyes that they will not seek to solve tomorrow's problems with yesterday's solutions.

We thank You for our new Senate page class. Inspire our pages to trust You passionately so that You will direct their steps. We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore 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.

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 with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. President, I welcome everyone back to begin this second session of the 109th Congress.

In a few moments we will begin another historic debate in the Senate Chamber as we consider the nomination of Samuel Alito to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

We will lock in a debate structure in a few moments so we will be able to alternate hours back and forth between the two sides of the aisle. This will help facilitate the schedule so Members will have a better understanding of when they will have the opportunity to come to the floor to give their statements and to participate in that debate.

We will remain in session all day today and into the night this week to

accommodate Senators who wish to make statements. As I mentioned, every Senator will have the opportunity to speak, but it is my hope we will be able to lock in a time certain for a vote on this qualified nominee as soon as possible in order that our fellow Senators will know when that confirmation vote will occur. I would like to be able to do that shortly. I have been in discussion with the Democratic leader, and we will continue that discussion on that particular matter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF SAMUEL A. ALITO, JR., TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, at this point, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the consideration of Calendar No. 490, the nomination of Samuel Alito to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senate will proceed to executive session, and the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Samuel A. Alito, Jr., of New Jersey, to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, will the majority leader yield to me for 1 minute while I bring up an issue that we were discussing yesterday?

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



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