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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, May 1, 1995, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 1995

(Legislative day of Monday, April 24, 1995)

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Holy spirit of God, the greatest counselor in the world, we open our minds, hearts, wills, and bodies to the infilling of Your power. Infinite Intelligence, grant us power to understand Your solutions to our problems. Unlimited Love, fill our hearts with healing love from which flows the affirmation that others need. Liberating Spirit, set us free from bondage of our wills, so intent on what we want that we miss the guidance of what You have for us. Artesian Strength, energize our bodies for the arduous pressures of the day ahead.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us. Peel back the icy fingers of the fist of fear that hold our hearts in the grip of grimness, that make us cautious when faced by great challenges, and cause us to be timid in life's testing hours. Spirit of Life, help us pull out all the stops so You can make great music of joy in our souls. Radiate Your hope through us. Make us positive people who are expectant of Your best for us and our Nation. Give us the authentic charisma that comes from Your grace: gifts of wisdom, knowledge, discernment, and love.

And today, as we begin our work, we remember Senator and Mrs. Heflin and

ask You for Your continued healing power in Mike, his wife. We thank You for the good reports of yesterday, and ask You to place Your loving arms around her with healing grace and hope.

This is the day the Lord has made. So lead on, O Lord. We rejoice and are glad in You. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, this morning the leader time has been reserved, and there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 12 noon with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each, with the exception of the following: Senator DOMENICI for 60 minutes; Senator THOMAS for 30 minutes; and Senator BAUCUS for 15 minutes.

At noon today the Senate will proceed to a 15-minute vote on the adoption of Senate Resolution 110, a resolution condemning the bombing of the Federal building in Oklahoma City.

The Senate will recess between the hours of 12:30 and 2:15 for the weekly policy luncheons.

At 2:15, following the luncheons, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 956, the product liability bill.

Members should, therefore, be aware that further rollcall votes can be ex-

pected throughout today's session of the U.S. Senate.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CAMPBELL). Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 12 noon with Senators permitted to speak therein for not to exceed 5 minutes with the following Senators to be recognized for the time specified: The Senator from New Mexico [Mr. DOMENICI], is recognized to speak for up to 60 minutes. The Senator from New Mexico may proceed.

Mr. DOMENICI. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Mr. President, Senator NUNN from Georgia will be along soon and I intend to share my 60 minutes with him. If he were here, I would let him open the discussion and follow him. But in his absence, I am sure he would want me to proceed.

(The remarks of Mr. DOMENICI and Mr. NUNN pertaining to the introduction of S. 722 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. DOMENICI addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAMS). The Senator from New Mexico.

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



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Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, how much time do we have remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Twenty-five minutes fifteen seconds.

Mr. DOMENICI. Would the Senator from Nebraska like 10 minutes, 5 minutes?

Mr. KERREY. Ten minutes.

Mr. DOMENICI. I yield 10 minutes to the Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. KERREY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be added as an original cosponsor to this legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Nebraska is recognized.

Mr. KERREY. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. KERREY pertaining to the introduction of S. 722 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

FRESHMAN FOCUS

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today as a replacement, pinch-hitting for the Senator from Wyoming, Senator THOMAS, who usually guides this half hour of time for the freshmen. We call this our freshman focus, 11 freshman Republicans who on Tuesday and Thursday mornings come to the Senate floor to talk about issues of importance to the Senate, to the country. Senator THOMAS has done a fine job in doing that. He is at the National Press Club today, so he is not available to do that. But I will do my best to fill in for him and try to lead the discussion this morning with my colleague from Maine and others who will appear on the floor to talk about our theme for today, which was a question I received a lot in town meetings and other meetings when I was back in Pennsylvania, when I was home in the last few weeks: What is ahead for the Senate? What is the Senate going to be doing with not just the Contract With America, but a whole bunch of other things?

So we thought we would take on that question head on: What is the agenda for the Senate? What are we going to be doing? Is it relevant, and how relevant is it, for the American public and what they are concerned about?

I had lengthy discussions at home at these town meetings and I got a good feel that we are on the right track. What is in our sights here in the U.S. Senate is on track with where the American public would like us to go.

The issue we are debating here on the floor today and for the next week or so is an issue of very great importance to the economic well-being of this country, legal reform. We have a much too costly legal system. It is one that makes us uncompetitive and inefficient, and one that is not fair to society as a whole. While we may have people, individuals, who hit the jackpot and win the lottery in some cases, that is not exactly what our legal system should be designed to do. It should

have the societal benefit of spreading risk around, and also creating justice not just for the individual but for society as a whole. I do not think our system achieves that as well as it can, and I think legal reform we are facing here on the Senate floor will be a help to everyone in our society. That, I believe, is very relevant for the average American.

The other thing we are obviously going to be bringing up, that may be somewhat expedited as a result of the tragedy in Oklahoma City, is a crime bill with very tough provisions on antiterrorism that is going to be, I believe, a bipartisan effort. Senator HATCH has talked about moving forward the crime bill, parts of which have passed the House, and moving it to the Senate floor with some tough antiterrorism measures, to quickly respond. Hopefully, the crime bill we are trying to push through will get an expedited path as a result of some of the activities over the last week or so. Hopefully, the Senate can quickly respond. Again, it is a matter of whether the other side is going to allow this body to move in an expeditious though thoughtful way or whether we are going to play delaying tactics and stalling tactics, to be a roadblock to progress.

There are two other things I want to focus on. If I heard about an issue back home from folks who were trying to make a living, small businessmen in particular, it was regulatory reform. More than anything else, having the Government regulators be more reasonable in dealing with the laws that we put forward and for the Congress and for the regulators to work together to put forward regulatory schemes that make common sense, not these overly bureaucratic and harmful procedures we put in place today to overregulate our society. Again, they cause a lot of personal pain and suffering and problems and affect lives in ways that are almost incalculable as a result of the scheme we put in effect over the last 30 or 40 years. We need to look at this, recreate Government anew, do something commonsense oriented to make Government work better for people back home. I believe the regulatory reform measures we will be considering here in the next month or so will go a long way toward doing that.

The last thing we are going to be looking at, and I will combine these two, is we are going to be looking at a tax cut bill and we are going to be looking at a budget resolution that is going to put this country on a road to a balanced budget in 7 years. I know the Senator from Maine is going to talk about this in detail as a member of the Budget Committee. In fact, we are going to have on the floor of the Senate a budget that will bring us to balance in 7 years. We will be able to vote for a balanced budget. I think it is the first time that has been the case, that the majority party in one of the bodies has proposed a balanced budget,

since 1969. So it is in fact historic and it is a great opportunity. It is a great challenge for not only the Members of the Senate, but for this country, to take a step back and look and see what we are going to do, not just to get the numbers to add up right but simply how are we going to save this country? How are we going to provide for some stability and financial future of this country?

This is not about just balancing the budget; this is about saving the country. Because if we do not take this course, if we do not act seriously on this fiscal crisis we are in right now, it is only going to get harder in the future. It does not get easier. Anyone who will tell you we can just put this off a little bit and it will get easier in the future is wrong. The budget deficit gets worse and worse the longer we wait. You jeopardize programs like Medicare and Social Security and every other popular program that is here in Washington by delaying and playing politics with this issue.

I am hopeful we will not play politics, that we will be able to stand up here and have an intelligent debate on the floor of the Senate and talk about what we are going to do to set priorities and put this country on a sound fiscal footing in the future so we can make sure people who are banking on Social Security and Medicare in their retirements, people who need the welfare systems that we have and hopefully will be able to reform, that those systems will be available and are not just going to be squeezed out because of our inability to set fiscal priorities today. The chance of them being squeezed out in the future is not just a possibility, it is a certainty. We will squeeze these programs out, a lot of them, if we do not set our house in order now.

So I am excited about that. I think it is a great opportunity for the Senate to shine, for us to really step forward and have this kind of deliberative discussion about issues at the core of who we are as a country and what direction we are going to take. I am anxious to get ahead, to look ahead at the next few months and see what we are going to do here in the U.S. Senate. I think it bodes well for this country for us to have this kind of aggressive agenda for the American public.

I will be happy to yield 5 minutes to the Senator from Maine.

A BALANCED BUDGET

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I thank the Senator for yielding. I am pleased to be able to join my freshman colleagues in talking about the agenda for the coming weeks and months as we return from our spring recess and have the opportunity to discuss with our constituents exactly what is on their minds. I can assure you, it is the same thing that it was in November.

People are still clamoring for institutional, economic, and political change.