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Senate

(Legislative day of Tuesday, January 7, 1997)

The Senate met at 12:31 p.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:

Sovereign God, we thank You that we have the privilege of living in this land of freedom where we the people have the power to elect the President and Vice President of our Nation. This afternoon as we go to meet in the Chamber of the House of Representatives to count the electoral college votes, give us a renewed sense of patriotism for our Nation and the Constitution. We ask Your blessing of wisdom and strength on President Clinton and Vice President GORE as they are confirmed in this historic meeting according to the 12th amendment. God, continue to bless America. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, until the leader takes the floor of the U.S. Senate, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, for the information of my colleagues, in just a few minutes the Democratic leader and I will be sending to the desk resolutions which make majority and minor-

ity party committee seat assignments for the 105th Congress. I want to again thank publicly, for the cooperation that we have received on this matter, both my colleagues within the conference and also Senator DASCHLE and his colleagues. I think it is not the usual situation that we can file these committee assignments this early in the session. I think it is going to help us facilitate our work early.

Following the adoption of these resolutions, the Senate will be proceeding to the House of Representatives in order to attend a joint session of Congress for the counting of the electoral college votes.

Immediately following the conclusion of that joint session, the Senate will adjourn over until Tuesday, January 21. On January 21, the Senate will stand in recess between the hours of 12:30 and 2:15 in order to allow for the weekly party conferences to meet. At 2:15, Tuesday, January 21, Senators may begin to introduce legislation for the 105th Congress. However, no votes are expected to occur during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 21, 1997.

Mr. President, did the Democratic leader have a comment he wanted to make at this point on the committee assignments, or should we proceed with the resolutions?

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, let me also thank all of our colleagues. I want to thank our colleagues for their cooperation and the great participation we have had in getting us to this point as quickly as we have. I thank, as well, the majority leader for his cooperation on the work we have been able to achieve in getting to this point. I think these committees represent a very fair and accurate presentation of ratios as it relates to the

membership of the Senate, and I am very pleased with the way our negotiations turned out.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Senator from South Dakota.

AMENDING PARAGRAPHS 2 AND 3 OF RULE XXV

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk relating to changes in certain committee ratios for the 105th Congress, and I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be reported by number, the resolution be adopted, and the motion to reconsider be laid on the table.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 9) amending paragraphs 2 and 3 of Rule XXV.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 9) was agreed to as follows:

S. RES. 9

Resolved, That paragraphs 2 and 3 of Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate is amended for the 105th Congress as follows:

Strike "21" after "Armed Services" and insert in lieu thereof "18".

Strike "16" after "Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs" and insert in lieu thereof "18".

Strike "19" after "Commerce, Science, and Transportation" and insert in lieu thereof "20".

Strike "16" after "Environment and Public Works" and insert in lieu thereof "18".

Strike "19" after "Finance" and insert in lieu thereof "20".

Strike "15" after "Governmental Affairs" in insert in lieu thereof "16".

Strike "16" after "Labor and Human Resources" and insert in lieu thereof "18".

Strike "19" after "Small Business" and insert in lieu thereof "18".

Strike "19" after "Aging" and insert in lieu thereof "18".

Strike "17" after "Intelligence" and insert in lieu thereof "19".

Strike "16" after "Indian Affairs" and insert in lieu thereof "14".

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



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