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Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

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

Dear Father, before we press on with the demands of today, we need to open our minds to You. We say with the psalmist, "Truly my soul silently waits for God."—Psalm 62:1. So often we rush off in all directions before we know what You want us to be and do. Sometimes the communication lines with You get jammed by our flow of words to You without listening to what You have to say to us. Prayer becomes like a telephone conversation in which we hang up on You before You have a chance to respond to the questions and the needs that we have spread out before You. Today we want to keep the lines open and really listen to You. Give us the patience to wait for Your creative insight about how to solve problems and grasp the potentials You arrange for us. Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until the hour of 3 p.m. this afternoon. This will accommodate a number of Senators who have requested time to speak on various matters.

Following morning business today, there will be a number of items that are possible for Senate consideration. Due to several scheduling conflicts, I am uncertain at this time exactly whether or not we will be able to make further progress on Senate Joint Resolution 1, the constitutional amendment

requiring a balanced budget. But it is my hope that at some time today the Democratic leader and I will reach an understanding as to the number of amendments that are expected to Senate Joint Resolution 1 as well as an indication as to when we might be able to complete action on this important constitutional amendment.

We have worked very hard at trying to accommodate all Senators' schedules, and, of course, this morning we have a funeral service for Ambassador Harriman and other problems in that area we tried to accommodate. We have taken up a few amendments and voted, but earlier my conversations with the Democratic leader were that he did not see—I believe this is a fair statement—any reason why we could not complete this work by the end of this month. So we have today and then 5 days when we come back after the Presidents' Day recess. I hope we can get a list that would have a reasonable amount of serious amendments and then get an agreement on a time to complete that action.

We want to make sure we have a full debate, everybody feels that they have been treated fairly, but there needs to be a limit on how long this goes on. We have been acting so far this year in good faith. We have been trying to accommodate each other's schedules, but when we come back we are going to have to move these amendments through the process and get a final vote because we do have other work we would like to bring to the floor.

I remind my colleagues that we have scheduled a rollcall vote on the pending amendment offered by Senator BYRD. That vote will occur at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, February 24, the day we come back. It is also possible the Senate will vote today on a resolution submitted by Senator SPECTER regarding milk prices. If an agreement can be reached, we will have a short period of debate on that resolution followed by a rollcall vote.

We are also still attempting to clear consideration of a resolution relating to the American Airlines strike which was submitted by Senator HUTCHISON. This is timely, obviously. We are looking at the possibility of a strike which could cripple that airline and impact jobs in the thousands all over the country. So I am hoping that we could pass a resolution expressing our concern and urging the President to use his powers to find a way to avoid this threatened strike.

Finally, there are a couple of nominations that were reported from committee yesterday. We may be able to clear those nominations for action. I am not sure that they would even require a vote, but we will have to work through it here in the next 3 or 4 hours. This is the last day of the session prior to the Presidents' Day recess, so I thank my colleagues for their cooperation as we try to finish business at a reasonable hour today. We will notify all the Senators when we may have actual rollcall votes. And, again, we have had good cooperation, but we have not had a lot of pressure in terms of schedule, and when we come back we really have to begin to make some progress on these amendments, and I hope we will be able to do that.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROBERTS). Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business until 3 p.m. The time between 11 and 12 noon shall be under the control of Senator THOMAS or his designee.

The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I believe we have special order time scheduled from 11 to 12 noon. I would designate the time allocated to Senator THOMAS to me.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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



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