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Senate

The 24th day of January being the day prescribed by H. Con. Res. 235 for the meeting of the second session of the 106th Congress, the Senate assembled in its Chamber at the Capitol at 12:03 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

PRAYER

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

Eternal God, before whom generations rise and pass away, to whom a thousand years are as yesterday, You have given us a new year, a new beginning, and a new opportunity to serve You. As we begin this year's work in the Senate, give us new hearts filled with the passion of ignited patriotism, minds filled with Your vision for America, and wills filled with desire to follow Your guidance.

We pray for the women and men of this Senate. Help them to claim Your promise through Jeremiah; "Call on me and I will show you great and mighty things which you do not know".—Jeremiah 33:3. Enable the Senators to humble themselves and confess their need for Your inspiration. Endow them with wisdom to see clearly Your solutions to the perplexities we face. The bigger the problems, the more of Your power is available. Make the Senators positive, courageous problem solvers. Give them an unprecedented sense of oneness and unity to lead this great Nation together. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JIM BUNNING, a Senator from the State of Kentucky, 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Chair.

APPRECIATION TO THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE AND THE CHAPLAIN

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thank you for your presence today and for being ready to go at the appointed hour.

Also, I express appreciation on behalf of the Senate for our Chaplain and for his wonderfully beautiful opening prayer. It is an inspiration to us.

WELCOME TO SENATORS AND STAFF

Mr. LOTT. I welcome back staff members and our colleagues in the Senate. I hope you have all had a period of time with your families and rest and health and recuperation, and regeneration, and that you are ready to go.

I see the Senator from California is ready and that other Senators are in the Chamber. I welcome you. We have several housekeeping matters to consider, but I do want to say again that we are glad to have you all back.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if Senators have statements they would like to make or legislation they would like to introduce, we will have a time for doing that today. I have talked to a number of Senators this morning, including my counterpart on the Democratic side, Senator DASCHLE, and everybody seems to be in good spirits and ready to go to work. We do have a lot of legislation that is pending, that has been reported out of committees and we hope to move to very quickly. We

have a number of bills in conference that we hope to have started right away to move toward getting a conference report. I believe the Federal Aviation Administration conferees will meet, in fact, on Thursday to begin to do some work there. This week we have scheduled action on the bankruptcy reform bill. We spent a lot of time at the end of the session last year on that bill—in fact, I think it was over a week. We went through over 100 amendments. We have narrowed the list down to a relatively small number. I visited with Senator DASCHLE about this legislation, and we will have some decision, some announcements we will make later on today about exactly how to proceed on bankruptcy reform.

In addition to that, we will have legislation that will be pending after today under rule XIV with regard to the situation of Elian Gonzalez, the young boy from Cuba. The legislation advocated by Senator MACK, Senator TORRICELLI, Senator GRAHAM, and others would grant citizenship to this young boy and therefore have the matter of his situation determined by a custody court proceeding rather than Immigration. When that would come up will depend on a number of other things, but it could be available as early as Wednesday or it could be acted on instead next week.

I remind my colleagues that there will be no rollcall votes during today's session. I am sure many Senators will be in the Chamber to make statements and introduce bills. We will be taking legislative action on Tuesday and Wednesday, with the potential of a number of votes occurring Tuesday afternoon and/or Wednesday. On Thursday, we will have a conference retreat for Republicans at the Library of Congress so we will not be in session during the day. As a reminder, the State of the Union Address will be that night, Thursday, January 27, at 9 p.m., and therefore the Senate will convene at 8:40 p.m. in order to proceed to the

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



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House of Representatives for that Address.

Finally, for the remainder of this week, I hope we will look at exactly when we will take up the nuclear waste legislation. I presume that some action will be taken either late this week or early next week which will guarantee a vote.

I appreciate my colleagues' attention and say again I look forward to working with Senators on both sides of the aisle.

In order to confirm that the Senate is prepared to begin business in the second session of the 106th Congress, I now suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUNNING). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

WELCOME TO SENATORS AND STAFF

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I join the majority leader in welcoming back our colleagues, the President pro tempore, our Chaplain, and our staff. I think we all had a wonderful break. It is good to be back and see so many friendly faces.

The majority leader and I had a good conversation earlier today and discussed a number of matters to be addressed in the early days of this session of Congress. I look forward to working with him and with our colleagues as we begin this second session of the 106th Congress.

I might inquire, has the majority leader finished? I didn't want to interrupt.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, if I could respond to the distinguished Democratic leader, if he wishes to make a statement at this time that would be fine, but we need to establish a quorum so we can notify the President that the Senate is ready to work.

The Senator can make his statement now or we can establish a quorum.

Mr. DASCHLE. Why don't we establish the quorum and I will comment later.

QUORUM CALL

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). The clerk will call the roll to ascertain the presence of a quorum.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll and the following Senators entered the Chamber and answered to their names:

Ashcroft	Campbell	Domenici
Baucus	Cochran	Dorgan
Bennett	Collins	Enzi
Bingaman	Craig	Feinstein
Bryan	Daschle	Fitzgerald
Bunning	DeWine	Frist
Byrd	Dodd	Grams

Hagel	Mack	Snowe
Hollings	McConnell	Specter
Hutchinson	Moynihan	Stevens
Jeffords	Murkowski	Thomas
Kennedy	Nickles	Thompson
Kyl	Reed	Thurmond
Landrieu	Reid	Voinovich
Lautenberg	Robb	Warner
Levin	Roberts	Wyden
Lott	Santorum	
Lugar	Sessions	

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the quorum call be dispensed with. I believe we have established a quorum and can proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. A quorum is present.

NOTIFYING THE PRESIDENT THE SENATE IS READY TO PROCEED TO BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk notifying the President of the United States that the Senate is now ready to proceed to business, and I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 242) notifying the President the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

There being no objection, the resolution (S. Res. 242) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 242

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate inform the President of the United States that a quorum of the Senate is assembled and that the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

NOTIFYING THE HOUSE THAT THE SENATE IS READY TO PROCEED TO BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk notifying the House that the Senate is now ready to proceed to business, and I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 243) notifying the House the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

There being no objection, the resolution (S. Res. 243) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 243

Resolved, That the Secretary inform the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled and that the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent there be a period for the transaction of morning business until 6 p.m., with Members permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I believe the Democratic leader will be here momentarily. Senator DASCHLE had started to make a speech earlier when we first started the quorum call. I believe he will be here momentarily to deliver his remarks. I call on other Senators who have been prepared to make remarks. I believe Senator MACK and perhaps several others would like to make remarks before the Senate concludes business today. I am glad we have established a quorum and are now ready to proceed.

I again remind Senators we will be in session on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. They should expect votes possibly during the day on Tuesday and possibly several votes on Wednesday.

It is our hope at this time that we can reach an agreement on how to proceed on the bankruptcy bill and we will be able to get an agreement on that and complete that bill which was carried over from the first session of this 106th Congress, and hopefully we could finish it by Wednesday night. There has been an indication, I believe on both sides of the aisle, we hope we could do that. So that would be our desire.

With regard to the matter of the young boy from Cuba, Elian Gonzalez, again what happens there will depend on events. Senator MACK will surely speak to that when he arrives in the Chamber.

Then at some point next week we will initiate proceedings on the nuclear waste bill also.

Those would be the first three issues we have pending before us. We will confer with the Democratic leadership and work on the bills that will be considered after that.

Mr. President, since Senator DASCHLE has not arrived just yet, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1999

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I send a bill to the desk and ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.