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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable DEBBIE STABENOW, a Senator from the State of Michigan.

PRAYER

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

Dear God, You have ordained that there is one decision we must make every day. It is the most crucial decision in the midst of all the other decisions we will be called to make. We hear Elijah's challenge, "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve."—Joshua 24:15b.

You have given us the freedom to choose whom we will serve today. We want to renew our decision to serve You as the only Lord of our lives. We know that without this decisive intentionality, we will drift into secondary loyalties. You entrust Your strength, gifts of leadership, and vision to those who start each day with a fresh decision to do everything for Your glory and according to Your specific guidance. In the quiet of this moment we make our decision to worship You with our work. You alone are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable DEBBIE STABENOW 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 23, 2002.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable DEBBIE STABENOW, a Senator from the State of Michigan, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Ms. STABENOW thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2538

Mr. REID. Madam President, it is my understanding S. 2538 is at the desk and is due for its second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask that it be read for the second time, and I then object to any further proceedings at this time.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2538) to amend the Fair Standards Act of 1938 to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

The Senator from Nevada.

APPRECIATION TO SENATOR STABENOW

Mr. REID. Madam President, before I make a brief announcement of what we are going to be doing today, I want to say that I personally appreciate what you, the Presiding Officer, have done for the people of the State of Nevada, bringing to their attention the prob-

lems we have with drug costs and the importance of having a Medicare benefit.

I think your attention has brought to Nevada a new awareness that we have to do something. Congress has to do something. And we have people, as a result of your statements and the work you have generated, calling my office asking what we are going to do about it. So I personally appreciate what you have done in that regard.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, you are going to announce shortly that we will be in a period of morning business until 10:30 this morning with the time equally divided. At 10:30, we are going to resume consideration of the trade act. All time will run out on the trade bill at around 6 o'clock this evening.

I indicate to all Senators, we now have a finite list of amendments that will be voted on if the Senators want votes on those amendments. It is about nine amendments, as I recall. We are going to try to work out a timely order to handle those. If we do not, then, no matter what happens, we finish at 6 o'clock anyway, and there will be a final vote on this bill, unless something untoward occurs. So there is still a lot of work to do.

The leader has indicated not only does he want to complete work on this trade bill, but there is bioterrorism legislation. The House did not move the supplemental yesterday. They quit at about 10 o'clock last night without having brought up a single amendment. So they are going to work their way through that today.

The order that has been entered in the House does not allow many amendments, so they can probably move the bill fairly quickly, as I understand it. Whether it will get here in time for us to do anything is something we just have to wait and see. Senator BYRD also would like to finish that before we leave.

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



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