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## Senate

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Sovereign God, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, You alone possess immortality and dwell in unapproachable light. We thank You for this land and for freedoms purchased with blood. Forgive our desire to seek the path of least resistance. Remind us, Lord, that few laudable goals are won without sacrifice. Teach us how to endure trials as we strive to live for You, to fight faith's battles leaning on Your strength. Give this Nation Your favor and hold it in the grip of Your gracious providence. Give our Senators a productive day and the wisdom to choose the excellent. May they labor to preserve the greatness of our national heritage as they strive to unite us. Be with each of us throughout this day and keep us in the way of love.

We pray this in Your Holy Name.  
Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore 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 majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we will be in a period of morning business for the purpose of making statements and introducing legislation. At 2

o'clock this afternoon, the Senate will resume consideration of the District of Columbia appropriations bill. It is still our desire to finish this bill this week. The managers were here Friday and will be here again today ready to make progress on the bill.

I announced last Friday that any amendments offered during today's session will be stacked for votes beginning at approximately 5:30 p.m. today. If Members do not come forward with their amendments, it would be my hope that the bill could be brought to third reading and the Senate will then vote on passage of the bill.

On the issue of DC school choice, we spent significant time last week on it, and the Mayor came to the Capitol imploring us to allow the District of Columbia schoolchildren to receive a decent education. We heard a lot of arguments from the other side as to why this should not happen. We heard from the other side that the District's public schoolchildren should be only allowed to go to a better school if the District's nonpublic schools submit a new, onerous, burdensome set of regulations. In other words, the nonpublic or private schools should have to pay for the failure of some of the District's schools. The logic of this type of argument simply is not clear. Children are not horses. They cannot be traded and they should not be traded.

We also heard that because this plan is modest and cannot provide scholarships for all of the District's children, then none of the District's children should have this opportunity to benefit. William Raspberry today in his syndicated column said it very well when he said, "How does it follow that nobody should get life vests, because there aren't enough to go around?" That is a good question, made even more puzzling by the fact that the same critics who charge the program for not being generous enough say it is a radical departure from the status quo.

Thomas Sowell, in his syndicated column today, likens this to the classic complaint that the food doesn't taste good, and even worse, there is not enough of it.

Well, the fact of the matter is we have had three full debates on this topic of the District appropriations but concentrating on education in the District. Today will be our fourth day of debate and discussion on this issue.

Despite all of these alleged concerns, the other side—the opposition—has not yet offered any amendments. We have not had them come forward and say this is our amendment; let's have a vote on the amendment. Thus, I am left with the conclusion that the opposition would prefer the schoolchildren in the District remain trapped in schools that are not giving them the opportunities to learn and to grow. I hope this is not the case and that we will press forward and work together to achieve passage of the bill this week.

If we are unable to make progress on the bill today in terms of amendments, we will have votes this afternoon on our judicial nominees. Seven additional judges were reported last Thursday, and we will begin ordering votes on those nominations this week.

This week, as I stated a couple of weeks ago now—almost two weeks ago—my intentions are to have the Senate begin the urgent supplemental request for Iraq and Afghanistan security. That discussion and debate is very important, and I have set aside this week, recognizing that we are going on recess next week, to address this very important issue, which is important because it looks at security in Iraq and in Afghanistan with a real focus on our troops who deserve that support. The full Senate will begin consideration of that bill as soon as it becomes available for floor action.

I know we will have full and complete debate, looking at the various aspects of that bill on the floor of the Senate, and thus as we talked about on

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



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the floor at the end of last week in colloquies going back and forth, late nights are to be expected.

We are at war. There is a war against terrorism. We are talking about security in Afghanistan and Iraq. It deserves the focus of this body. I have asked my colleagues to make their schedules available so we can have full participation. It does mean that during the days and, I suspect, well into the evenings this week, we will be participating in that debate. We do want to finish this emergency appropriations bill this week.

Again, as I mentioned, next week we will be out on recess and into the week after that. The President has made it very clear that the urgency demands we address this bill as soon as possible. That will be this week, and it is our intention to complete that this week.

I thank my colleagues in advance for what will be a challenging week for all of us. I expect the American people can be proud this week as we deliberate on the many complicated issues on which we will have votes to decide those issues and we will then complete our work on this request by the end of the week.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

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

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. In my capacity as a Senator from the State of Alaska, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business until the hour of 2 p.m., with the time equally divided and controlled in the usual form.

In my capacity as a Senator from the State of Alaska, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BYRD. 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.

#### PUTTING \$87 BILLION INTO CONTEXT

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, my remarks will not be lengthy, but I entitle them as follows: "Putting \$87 Billion Into Context."

The Senate will soon consider the President's request for an additional \$87 billion to fund the U.S. occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan and to aid in their reconstruction.

The \$87 billion supplemental brings to a total of \$194 billion the amount the United States is spending in Iraq and Afghanistan. Let me repeat that. The \$87 billion supplemental brings to \$194 billion the amount the United States is spending in Iraq and Afghanistan, more than twice what the administration had led the public to believe just a few months ago.

The 1991 Persian Gulf war, by contrast, cost \$61 billion, of which the United States paid only \$7 billion. That is \$7 billion spent in 1991 compared to \$194 billion today, almost 28 times higher.

The Bush administration's \$87 billion supplemental request is the largest emergency spending request since 1977. The \$87 billion request, just for Iraq and Afghanistan, just for next year, roughly equals, in current dollars, the total amount of money spent to rebuild the entire continent of Europe after World War II. The request is larger than the \$74 billion the Defense Department plans to spend on all new weapons purchases next year. The request is more than twice the administration's entire \$35 billion homeland security budget for next year. That means that for every \$2 spent on the President's supplemental request for Iraq, the administration will spend less than \$1 on homeland security here at home.

The \$20 billion the President is seeking for Iraq's reconstruction is \$2 billion more than we are spending for foreign assistance for every other nation on the planet. The \$87 billion request is 50 percent more than we spend on education for the entire United States. Let me say that again. The \$87 billion request is 50 percent more than we spend on education for the entire Nation.

With \$194 billion spent or requested, the President's war spending in 2003 and 2004 already exceeds the inflation-adjusted cost of the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and the Persian Gulf war combined. The cost of the war and postwar occupation of Iraq will soon surpass the \$196 billion inflation-adjusted cost of World War I. The monthly bill for the United States military missions in Iraq and Afghanistan now rivals spending during the Vietnam war.

At \$87 billion, the President's request is larger than the economies of 166 countries. It is larger than the individual economies of almost half the States of the Union. That is a lot of money.

If approved, the President's request would increase the Federal budget deficit for fiscal year 2004 to \$535 billion; in other words, more than half a trillion dollars. I will say that once more. If approved, the President's request would increase the Federal budget deficit for fiscal year 2004 to \$535 billion.

The White House is now in danger of violating its own self-imposed limit for budget deficits, 6 percent of gross domestic product or \$600 billion.

The administration hopes it will receive an additional \$30 billion to \$55 billion from other countries and Iraqi oil revenue over the next 2 years, but that money may never materialize. Iraqi oil production is 1 million barrels per day less than before the war. The oil infrastructure has been hobbled by severe looting and sabotage. Certain pipelines have been struck by a series of attacks since the United Nations lifted sanctions this summer. Iraq's oil revenues are likely to fall short of even the most modest expectations of this administration.

As for the tens of billions of dollars the Bush administration is hoping to receive from other countries and international financial institutions, President Bush's request has fallen on deaf ears. The Bush administration has alienated most of the international community. After the Presidential swallowing of pride and having asked the United Nations for help, the Washington Post summed up the President's fundraising efforts with the headline, "Bush Fails To Gain Pledges On Troops Or Funds For Iraq."

Increasingly, it appears as if we are on our own in financing the occupation and the reconstruction of Iraq. I urge my colleagues to exercise patience before approving this request. This is not just an ordinary supplemental bill. This is not just a token amount of money. It is the beginning of a major commitment of resources in behalf of the American taxpayer. Before we act, we should make sure that taxpayers understand the size and consequences of this request and what will be asked of them in paying for it.

I yield the floor.

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

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SUNUNU). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time for the quorum call, which will be shortly announced, be charged equally to both sides.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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