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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.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.

Eternal Lord God, You are the source of every blessing. Thank You for Your unfailing love. Lord, we know that You want our hearts more than anything we have, and we would give them to You. Forgive us when we forget to see our challenges from a faith perspective. Remind us that You are an ever present help for all our troubles.

Inspire our Senators today. May they build their hope on You. As they are pressed by many issues, help them to slow down long enough to hear Your voice. Cheer our hearts with the knowledge that You will always sustain us. And, Lord, bless our military.

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, this morning there will be a period of morning business until 10:30 a.m. Following morning business, the Senate will begin consideration of S. 1637, the Jumpstart JOBS or, as it is also known, the FSC/ETI bill. Senators GRASSLEY and BAUCUS will be here

through the morning to begin working through the amendments as they are offered.

Over the last couple of weeks we have been attempting to work out an agreement for consideration of the bill with the Democratic leadership. With the March 1 deadline behind us, it is imperative we attempt to consider this bill in an expeditious way. We have been unable, unfortunately, to reach agreement with our colleagues on the other side of the aisle to limit the nature of the amendments to the underlying bill. Thus, we are proceeding today in good faith and hope we can consider related amendments in order to make progress. Again, the March 1 deadline has passed. It is incumbent upon us to address this bill in an organized and expeditious way.

Rollcall votes can be expected today in relation to the Jumpstart JOBS bill. We will alert all Members as the votes are scheduled. It is critical that we work aggressively on the bill Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of this week. Next week we will be going to the budget.

NEW LEADERS FOR NEW SCHOOLS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I want to take several minutes to comment on some good news from Tennessee, good news from Tennessee that underscores the importance of having a good, strong leader as principal of K through 12 schools.

Last month, the national, nonprofit New Leaders for New Schools chose the city of Memphis to participate in its education program. Memphis joins other cities—Chicago and New York and Washington—as a participant in this new and innovative reform effort in education. The program is called New Leaders for New Schools. It is the brainchild of John Schnur, a young social entrepreneur and education expert. He came up with the idea while at Harvard Business School. His idea was to

take concepts of business leadership and apply it to education K through 12.

As we all know, every successful company is led by a successful CEO. Successful schools, in turn, are really no different. Great principals make for great schools. Really, it makes sense. New Leaders for New Schools trains outstanding individuals to become outstanding school principals. The program draws applicants from all walks of life, from former bankers and dot commers, to teachers and, indeed, retired principals. What they share is a deep belief in the potential of every child to succeed. These committed individuals are sent into urban school districts to turn around poor performing schools. As they prove their effectiveness, they can earn flexibility in hiring and carrying out reforms.

In Memphis, New Leaders for New Schools will recruit and develop 60 new principals over 3 years to serve in the public school system. City leaders are rightly excited about this great opportunity. The No Child Left Behind Act does set high standards, and a strong and effective school principal is key to meeting these goals.

I should note that 45 percent of Memphis school principals are eligible for retirement in the next 3 years. Training the next generation of principals is critical.

I am excited for the parents and the teachers of Memphis. I am especially excited for the schoolchildren of Memphis. With strong and motivated leadership at the top, they will have even more opportunities to realize their potential.

Every child can learn. Every child can succeed. New Leaders for New Schools is one more step in moving our education system forward.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

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



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