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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 27, 2004, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2004

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ELIZABETH DOLE, a Senator from the State of North Carolina.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.
Infinite spirit, today's blanket of snow reminds us of Your constancy in the orderly movements of the seasons. Your thoughts are too high for us to comprehend and Your ways are past finding out.

Great is Your name, O God. You transform our discordant notes into harmony. We thank You that Your goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our lives. Lord, thank You for this land of freedom which we sometimes take for granted.

As Senators deliberate on complex issues, give them the insight to discern truth from untruth, the high from the low, and the enduring from the transient. Give them a perspective that will enable them to find the right path.

Lord, bless our storm-tossed world with its distresses and catastrophes. Use each of us as instruments of Your peace. We ask this in the power of Your Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ELIZABETH DOLE 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. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 26, 2004.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ELIZABETH DOLE, a Senator from the State of North Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. DOLE thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, today the Senate will resume debate on H.R. 3108, the pension rate bill. While there will be no rollcall votes today, Senators will have an opportunity to offer and debate their amendments. It is the majority leader's intention to complete action on this legislation this week. Therefore, Members are encouraged to make themselves available during today's session to offer their amendments. Any votes ordered with

respect to the pension bill will be stacked to occur on Tuesday.

Senators were on the floor on Thursday afternoon and Friday to offer and debate amendments to the pension bill. Although the unanimous consent agreement allows for additional amendments, it is uncertain at this time if those amendments will in fact be offered. If Senators desire to offer an amendment, they should notify their respective cloakrooms today so they can be scheduled for consideration. It may be possible, therefore, to finish the bill at a reasonable time on Tuesday. As always, Senators will be notified when the first vote is going to be scheduled.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. DASCHLE. Madam President, it is my understanding that there will be no rollcall votes until Tuesday afternoon. Is that the decision made by the assistant leader?

Mr. MCCONNELL. I would say it is reasonable to expect there will be no rollcall votes until after the policy luncheons tomorrow.

Mr. DASCHLE. I thank the assistant Republican leader for his clarification with regard to that schedule.

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



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