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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CHUCK HAGEL, a Senator from the State of Nebraska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain from Omaha, NE, the pastor of Countryside Community Church, the Reverend Donald Longbottom.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Creator God, give us insight to see the things our eyes overlook: Your infinite stars hanging low over the prairie on a winter's night, the rhythms of the tides as they ebb and flow like history itself.

Open our hearts to feel the things our hands cannot touch: The continuing presence of the pioneering spirits who came before us, who are no more, yet remain with us still. Open our ears to hear Your still small voice echoing quietly on the evening breeze. Teach us, O God, to seek presence in the flash and thunder of a springtime storm, in the gentle pattern of a summertime rain. Remind us, O God, that though fall may turn our beloved land dormant brown, Your care and concern remain vital and alive throughout the seasons.

Although You are called by many names, You remain beyond our naming and our taming. Rich, poor, powerful, weak, young or old, courageous or meek, famous or infamous, we are all Your creation. No matter our color, creed, sexual orientation, or nation of origin—we are all Your children, just people seeking to make a life.

O God, we pray for peace and justice in America and throughout our world. Inspire our leaders, make them wise and compassionate. Bless them as they guide our Nation through fearful and chaotic times. Empower them to bring human history into a wondrous era of joy and harmony.

In these things and in all things, Lord, we humble ourselves before You and seek Your guidance. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHUCK HAGEL 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, July 14, 2004.

To the Senate:

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

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. HAGEL thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, this morning there will be a period for morning business for up to 30 minutes with the majority leader or his designee in control of the first 15 minutes and the Democratic leader or his designee in control of the final 15 minutes.

Following morning business, we will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to the marriage amendment. The time until 12 noon will be equally divided for debate on the motion. At noon, the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the joint resolution. The cloture vote will be the first vote of the day.

The leader has mentioned the Australian free trade legislation and the desire to finish that bill this week. In addition, as mentioned last night, the Senate needs to move forward with respect to the FSC/ETI JOBS measure and appoint conferees. Therefore, Senators should anticipate additional votes during the session.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate minority leader is recognized.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. DASCHLE. If I may ask the acting majority leader a question, there was some lack of clarity with regard to the schedule. It appears as if the next order of business will be the Australian free trade agreement. Is it the expectation of the majority that we would take up the Australian free trade agreement this afternoon?

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, that is my understanding. However, there was also mention that the leader desires to discuss moving to the JOBS measure. That discussion may take place between the two leaders prior to the cloture vote.

Mr. DASCHLE. I thank the acting majority leader.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

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



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