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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 Spirit, the giver of every good and perfect gift, we rejoice in the mystery of Your power and grace. You overwhelm us with Your faithfulness, Your mercy, and Your love.

Today, remind our Senators that they are stewards of Your generous blessings. Empower them to seize the many opportunities to be used as instruments of Your will. Make their faithfulness inspire others to glorify You, the fountain of all that is holy and true.

Help each of us to be responsible managers of the different talents You have provided for the good of humanity.

We pray 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 30 minutes, with the first half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee, and the second half of the time under the control of the majority leader or his designee.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we will begin today's session with 30 minutes allocated for morning business. At the conclusion of morning business, we will return to the pending supplemental appropriations bill. The order provides for debate to run equally in relation to Senator GREGG's border security amendment, along with Senator REID's amendment on border security. We will vote on both of those amendments beginning at 12 noon today. I encourage Senators to come forward with their amendments. If Senators are considering amendments, please notify the managers as soon as possible. They will then be able to line up an orderly process.

It is my intent to have votes throughout the day on amendments, and I hope Senators agree to reasonable time agreements to allow us to work through as many of these issues as we can during today's session.

SUPPLEMENTAL SPENDING REQUEST

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, yesterday the President made clear that he will veto any supplemental spending bill that exceeds the administration's request. I thank and applaud the administration and recognize their determination to stick to true emergency spending. I will support the veto, if necessary, to keep Federal spending under control. Families live within their means; so should Washington.

The President has taken a strong stance on a necessary, must-pass piece of legislation that we know will bolster our national security, support hurricane recovery, and border security efforts as well. We need to work swiftly

and in good faith to meet the President's request, but we need to focus on the necessary spending.

The President submitted his request for \$92.2 billion in emergency spending in late February. The House passed the supplemental in March. This legislation needs to be on the President's desk before Memorial Day. We intend to do just that.

We need to support our troops who are currently in the field fighting to protect us, and we need to support our fellow citizens who are working hard to rebuild and recover their homes and communities on the gulf coast. Both are extraordinary responsibilities. We should not in any way, with either of these issues, play politics in succeeding on these critical efforts. Nor can we afford to encumber this must-pass legislation with unnecessary amendments. It is always tempting for people to come forward and get their own projects or interests attached to these must-pass spending bills. On this bill, we encourage people not to do that.

In order to keep within our spending limits, we are encouraging Senators who may have legitimate emergency spending requests to find offsets for those amendments in order not to drive the overall top line of this bill higher and higher.

For example, the amendment I co-sponsored with Senator JUDD GREGG increases emergency spending for border security, but it is offset within the bill, and I think that is how we should approach issues as much as possible.

Time is limited. We must finish this legislation, I hope within the week, so we can quickly get on to a conference with the House and get it to the President for signature. These are emergency funds and the troops need these funds overseas. By pulling together, I am confident we can move this legislation forward and get the critical work of the American people done.

I yield the floor.

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



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