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Senate

The Senate met at 2 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 Lord, majestic Father of all creation, speak Your truth to us. Today may our Senators stop in the midst of busyness and listen for Your voice. Give them the discernment to hear You correctly. Grant them the courage to live out Your calling in their lives. Make these leaders work as one body to accomplish Your will. Give them wisdom in their tasks, confidence in the hearing of Your voice, and a love for You as well as each other.

Remind us all of the truth that neither death nor life, nor height nor depth, nor any created thing can separate us from Your love.

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, leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this afternoon, the order provides for resuming

debate on the supplemental appropriations bill. I believe after the remarks of the two leaders, there are a couple of Senators, including our distinguished President pro tempore, who desire to speak on other subjects. The chairman will then be ready to resume debate on the pending emergency supplemental bill. I remind all Senators that I filed a cloture motion on the bill last week and that vote will occur tomorrow morning. In accordance with that cloture motion, all first-degree amendments should be filed at the desk by 2:30 this afternoon. We already have a large number of pending amendments that will need to be disposed of. If we are able to invoke cloture on the bill tomorrow morning, then it is my expectation to finish the bill no later than Wednesday of this week. Therefore, we will have rollcall votes each day of this week as we complete work on this appropriations bill.

Our first rollcall vote this week will occur this afternoon at 5:30. We will have a vote on a district judge who was reported by the Judiciary Committee last week. This week we may also consider the tax relief extension conference report, if that conference report becomes available. There is a 10-hour statutory limit on that measure, and we will begin debate under that time limit as soon as that conference report arrives from the House.

ENERGY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, over the weekend, we got more bad news on the rising price of gas. Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman told us to expect high gas prices to continue for 2 to 3 more years. In his words, suppliers have lost control of the market.

Every day drivers are getting soaked with higher and higher prices at the pump and in some places gas prices are well over \$3 per gallon. Worse yet, the situation only threatens to intensify as those summer driving months come into view.

Consumers are understandably frustrated. They are worried. For most families, gas is a basic necessity, and rising gas prices simply put them over a barrel. They need a break. The Republican leadership is delivering a plan.

Last Thursday, we unveiled our proposal to offer immediate short-term relief for American consumers, as well as a broader strategy to increase America's energy supply and to reduce our demand for oil.

We propose giving taxpayers a \$100 gas tax holiday rebate check so their hard-earned money goes back into their pockets instead of into their gas tanks.

We also want to make sure consumers are protected against any price gouging or anticompetitive behavior by oil companies or other suppliers of energy. Our proposal includes strong Federal antiprice-gouging protection.

These are two steps we can take right now to offer the consumer immediate relief. But for the midterm and for the long term, we need to get to the root of what is driving oil prices through the roof: basic supply and demand. We don't have enough domestic oil to meet our energy needs, and that global demand is growing day by day.

In order to get control of the problem, we need to increase domestic supplies, supplies at home, and we need to diversify our energy sources.

The package we have introduced promotes the development of alternative fuels in the use of hybrids and other advanced technology vehicles. It also gives Secretary Mineta the authority to issue a rule looking at fuel economy standards for passenger cars.

These two measures address the demand side of the equation, but we also must address the supply side. If President Clinton had not vetoed ANWR a decade ago, ANWR today would be producing a million barrels of oil each and every day right now. A million barrels of supply each day would be coming to

• 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 continent. That is about three-fourths of what we currently import from all of Saudi Arabia.

We need to open a portion of the Reserve to environmentally sensitive exploration and get that oil to the market. There is no question that tapping into this domestic resource will bring down oil prices.

We also need to expand our refinery capacity. It is amazing, we have not built a new refinery in the United States in over 30 years. It is next to impossible to expand an existing one today.

One reason why gas prices are so high right now is that several refineries are still offline in the wake of Katrina. Several others deferred maintenance to help after the hurricane are performing maintenance now, still at lower than pre-Katrina levels.

Adding refinery capacity will help to increase gasoline supplies and lower prices at the pump. Our plan takes important steps in this direction.

We all know America is dangerously dependent on foreign sources of oil. This dependence compromises our economic and national security. Last summer, after a decade of partisan obstruction, Congress passed a comprehensive Energy bill that goes a long way toward addressing this grave problem. We double the amount of ethanol and biodiesel in our gasoline. By 2012, this should reduce oil consumption by 80,000 barrels a day.

We passed a hybrid car tax credit of up to \$3,400 per vehicle.

The Energy bill also allocated significant funding for research and development of hydrogen fuel cells. If just 20 percent of our cars used fuel cell technology, we could cut oil imports by 1.5 million barrels a day.

We need to build on these initiatives and encourage American consumers, producers, and entrepreneurs to think beyond oil. I believe, as does the President, that America's future lies with technology that will allow Americans to use environmentally safe and diverse energy sources. America will be safer, America will be more secure with American energy coming from American sources.

We presented a strong package that will give consumers relief at the pump and will bring down the high cost of gas. I am hopeful we will vote on this package in the coming days. Filling up the tank shouldn't break the bank.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader is recognized.

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

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. 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.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR NO. 616

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that at 5:30 p.m. today, the Senate proceed to executive session and to a vote on the confirmation of the following judicial nomination on the Executive Calendar: No. 616, Michael Barrett to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio. I further ask unanimous consent that the 20 minutes prior to the vote be divided between the chairman and the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee and that the two Senators from Ohio each be allocated up to 5 minutes; provided further, following the 5:30 p.m. vote, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I see my two colleagues in the Chamber, the distinguished Senators from Tennessee and Louisiana, and I see my friend from New Mexico here. I have a statement to give. It will take a few minutes to complete. I apologize, but that is what I have to do. I guess I should make an inquiry. How long are the Senators going to speak?

Mr. ALEXANDER. Five minutes.

Mr. REID. The Senator from New Mexico, it looks like he is loaded for bear there.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I have an amendment I am going to introduce on the pending bill. I will not speak longer than 5 minutes on the amendment.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I can wait and do my speech after that, if that would be OK with my colleagues. It is just a matter of trying to be nice to people. So I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from New Mexico be recognized—or the Senator from Tennessee be recognized first, the Senator from Louisiana second, and the Senator from New Mexico, the chairman of the Energy Committee, my dear friend, be recognized for 5 minutes and following that, I would have the floor and be able to start my speech and finish it.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I would like to just make the suggestion through the Chair that the Senator from New Mexico go second and I proceed third.

Mr. REID. No objection.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I know we put together a time line. Senator KENNEDY would also like to be recognized. He can follow Senator REID, but I think he would like to be recog-

nized for 30 minutes following the four Senators we have in the queue.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, is morning business allocated this morning?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. No.

Mr. REID. So what the Senator from Washington has asked is that following my statement, the Senator from Massachusetts be recognized for 30 minutes. My statement is going to take a little bit of time, and if there is a Republican speaker who wants to come after me, that would be what should happen, and then Senator KENNEDY can be recognized after that. Is that appropriate? So I ask that following my statement, the Senator from Alaska be recognized.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Myself and Senator INOUE for 20 minutes.

Mr. REID. And following that, Senator KENNEDY be recognized for 30 minutes. So Senator INOUE and Senator STEVENS for 10 minutes each. So after 15 minutes, I will speak, and then it will be Senator INOUE and Senator STEVENS, and then following that it will be Senator KENNEDY.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Chair recognizes the Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I thank the Democratic leader for his courtesy. This will permit me to chair a hearing at 2:30 on time. I thank the chairman of the Energy Committee and the Senator from Louisiana.

May I ask the Chair to inform me when there is 30 seconds remaining of my 5 minutes.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator will be notified.

SINGING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, across the country today, thousands of immigrants, legal and illegal, are marching in a nationwide rally. Many are saying that they, too, want to become Americans.

But I am afraid the message is quite literally getting lost in translation. As part of these demonstrations, a new version of our national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner," has been produced—in Spanish.

According to an article in the Washington Post on last Friday, at least 389 different versions of our anthem have been produced over the years in many musical styles, including rock and roll and country, but the Post also noted that never before has it been rendered in another language. This may be a first, but it is a big first step in the wrong direction. It is a mistake precisely because our Nation is a nation of immigrants.

Almost all of us are descended from immigrants from Britain or Germany or Italy or France or China or Mexico or some other country around the world. Our forefathers who came from these many different countries spoke