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Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 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.

Sovereign Guide of humanity, we come to You as Your pilgrims in need of direction. We come as Your soldiers in need of strength for life's battles. We come as Your disciples in need of knowledge in our perplexity. We come as Your ambassadors in need of grace to represent You with honor.

Today, as Senators serve as Your pilgrims, soldiers, disciples, and ambassadors, infuse them with wisdom. Provide them with insights for every challenge and help for every need.

We pray in Your loving 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 be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 1 hour, 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, in a couple minutes, we will begin 1 hour of debate prior to the scheduled cloture vote on the emergency supplemental appropriations bill. That vote should occur around 11 a.m. this morning. I expect cloture will be invoked today, and that will allow us a road to finish this bill on Wednesday. If cloture is invoked, Senators should anticipate further votes over the course of the day. The chairman and ranking member will be scheduling the votes on the pending amendments that qualify under the germaneness rules. We will also recess today for our weekly policy meetings.

ORDER FOR RECESS

I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess from 12:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. today for those meetings and that the time be counted against cloture under rule XXII if cloture is invoked.

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

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, Senators should expect a busy couple of days as we vote on the remaining appropriations amendments today and tomorrow.

Finally, I also remind my colleagues that Senators have until 10:30 this morning to file their second-degree amendments to the pending appropriations bill.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today the Senate will vote on cloture for the emergency spending supplemental appropriations bill. The President has made it clear that he will veto any supplemental bill coming out of the com-

mittee that exceeds the administration's request. I applaud the President's determination to stick to true emergency spending, and I will support such a veto, if necessary, to keep that Federal spending under control. Families have to live within their means and so should we in Washington. I think we need to tighten the belt and follow a course of strict fiscal discipline.

The President has taken a strong stance on a must-pass piece of legislation that will bolster our national security, hurricane recovery, and border security efforts. I expect my colleagues to work in good faith to meet the President's request.

The President submitted his emergency spending request in late February. The House acted on the supplemental in March. The legislation needs to be on the President's desk before Memorial Day. It is time for us in the Senate to bring debate on this measure to a close. We need to support our troops who are fighting to protect us. We need to support our fellow citizens who are working hard to rebuild and recover their homes and communities on the gulf coast. We need to focus resources on securing our borders against illegal immigration.

That is what this vote is all about. These are extraordinary responsibilities, and we cannot, we should not play politics at such critical times. Time is limited. We must finish this legislation this week so we can quickly get a conference report with the House and get it to the President for his signature.

Indeed, by pulling together, we can move this legislation forward and address the critical work of the American people.

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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