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Senate

The Senate met at 9:31 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RICK SANTORUM, a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, as we begin this day of work here in the Senate our minds are focused on the people of New Mexico who have suffered the loss of their homes and personal property in the tragedy of the forest fires in both the northern and southern parts of the State. Especially, our hearts go out in profound sympathy for fire fighter Samuel James Tobias who lost his life while flying a spotter plane over the forest fires. Comfort his family and continue to give courage to his fellow fire fighters.

Father, we are profoundly grateful for the heroic service of fire fighters, police and emergency personnel who face danger and possible loss of life to preserve our forests, natural resources, homes, and our very lives.

Now, as we turn to the responsibilities of this day we ask You to fill the wells of our souls with Your strength and our intellects with fresh inspiration. Here are our minds, enlighten them; here are our wills, quicken them; here are our bodies, infuse them with energy. For You, Dear God, are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICK SANTORUM, a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania, 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. THURMOND].

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 23, 2000.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICK SANTORUM, a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SANTORUM thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators GRAMS and DURBIN in control of the time until 11:30 a.m. Momentarily, I intend to propound a unanimous consent request that provides for debate on two FEC nominations, beginning at 11:30 a.m., and consuming the remainder of the day. There will also be debate time on several judicial nominations, with any votes ordered during today's session to occur on Wednesday.

For the information of all Senators, it is my intention to begin consideration of the legislative branch appropriations bill, as well as the Agriculture appropriations bill, later this week. It is hoped that the Senate can complete action on both of these very important spending bills prior to the Memorial Day recess.

Now, again, for the information of Senators, we will have this debate on the nominations throughout the day. Beginning tomorrow, in the morning, I presume, right after the opening activities, we will go to the legislative branch appropriations bill. We hope to be able to finish that in a reasonable period of time. But regardless of that, sometime in midafternoon—I presume, 3:30, 4:00, 4:30; we will have to look at the time and work out that exact time—we will begin a series of votes that will probably mean votes on either four or five or six—I hope it is five or four and not the full six, but we could still have as many as six votes in a row Wednesday afternoon. Then we hope to turn to the Agriculture appropriations bill.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. LOTT. In executive session, I ask unanimous consent that at 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 23, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 436, the nomination of Bradley Smith to be a member of the FEC. I further ask consent that debate be limited on the nomination as follows: Senator MCCONNELL, 2 hours; Senator DODD, or his designee, 2 hours; Senator WELLSTONE, 2 hours; Senator MCCAIN, 2 hours; Senator FEINGOLD, 2 hours.

I further ask consent that following the use or yielding back of time, the nomination be laid aside, with a vote to occur on the confirmation of the nomination during Wednesday's session of the Senate at a time to be determined by the two leaders, with 20 minutes for closing remarks, equally divided, just prior to the vote. If we need a few more minutes than that, we will work with the interested parties to see if that can be achieved.

I also ask consent that immediately following that vote, the Senate proceed

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



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