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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, June 19, 2000, at 12:30 p.m.

## Senate

FRIDAY, JUNE 16, 2000

The Senate met at 9:31 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

### PRAYER

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

Dear Father, the best of all fathers and the source of inspiration for what it means to be a father, we approach Father's Day on Sunday with a prayer that You will not only bless the fathers of our land but will call all of us to a renewed commitment to the awesome responsibilities You have entrusted to all fathers. May this be a day for the beginning of a great father movement in our Nation. More than a day for parties and gifts, we pray for a day when fathers accept the calling to become the spiritual, moral, and patriotic leaders of their families. Many fathers have abdicated this calling and are AWOL from the duty of being role models and the molders of character. The statistics of fatherless families in America are staggering. No less alarming are the number of families where fathers leave to their wives the total responsibility for forming strong spiritual development and the character traits of faithfulness, trustworthiness, caring, integrity, and citizenship. O Heavenly Father, draw the fathers of our land to Yourself and then inspire us with the realization that the destiny of our children and our society is dependent on God-loving, family-oriented, value-guided fathers who will teach their children about You, exemplify character strength, and show what it means to be morally accountable. In Your holy name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LINCOLN CHAFEE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, 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 PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. L. CHAFEE). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I will begin with a brief statement on behalf of the majority leader. Today the Senate will immediately begin a vote on the conference report to accompany the digital signatures legislation. Following the vote, the Senate will be in a period of morning business with Senator CRAIG in control of the first hour.

For the information of all Senators, the Senate will resume consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill on Monday at 3 p.m. By previous consent, Senators HATCH and KENNEDY will be recognized to offer their amendments regarding hate crimes. Those amendments will be debated simultaneously, with any votes

ordered to take place on Tuesday at 3:15 p.m.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

### ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES IN GLOBAL AND NATIONAL COMMERCE ACT—CONFERENCE REPORT—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to vote on the conference report accompanying S. 761, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The conference report on S. 761, an act to regulate interstate commerce by electronic means by permitting and encouraging the continued expansion of electronic commerce through the operation of free market forces, and for other purposes.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I commend Senator ABRAHAM, Senator MCCAIN, and Chairman BLILEY for their hard work in the conference on the digital signatures bill, which grants online contracts and other transactions the same legal force as those conducted with pen-and-ink. I should add that Senator LEAHY and Senator WYDEN made significant positive contributions to the bill. I am an original cosponsor of this legislation and I am very pleased with the conference report before the Senate today.

Yesterday, the House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly in favor of the conference report by a vote of 426-4. I urge my colleagues to support the conference report, which is a bipartisan product that will allow businesses 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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