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Senate

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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.

O Lord, You have made this day for Yourself and for us. It is Your day, and we share its meaning. Remind us that You use our minds, hands, and feet to do Your work in our world.

Help us to bring aid and comfort to those who have been battered by the forces of nature. May we see in their trials opportunities to serve You.

Give the Members of this body the wisdom to use this day for Your glory. May they use their talents to strengthen our Nation and world. Empower them to strive for integrity, faith, love, and peace.

Entwine our lives with Your purposes so that our land will be blessed by Your providence.

We pray in Your sovereign 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.

NOMINATION OF JOHN G. ROBERTS, JR., TO BE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES—Resumed

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of Calendar No. 317, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of John G. Roberts, Jr., of Maryland to be Chief Justice of the United States.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 10:30 a.m. will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in a few minutes, we will begin the final remarks regarding the nomination of Judge John Roberts to serve as Chief Justice of the United States. Beginning at 10:30 this morning, the time until the vote has been allocated for closing comments by the chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee. The vote on the confirmation of Judge Roberts will begin at 11:30.

I remind all Senators to be at their desks at the outset of this historic vote. Senators should come to the Chamber around 11:20 for the 11:30 vote.

Following the confirmation vote on Judge Roberts, the Senate will take up the Defense appropriations bill. Senators should expect additional votes on the Defense bill, as well as votes on Friday.

The vote we cast today is one of the most consequential of our careers. With the confirmation of John Roberts, the Supreme Court will embark upon a new era in its history—the Roberts era. For many years to come, long after

many of us will have left public service, the Roberts Court will be deliberating on some of the most difficult and fundamental questions of U.S. law. As all Supreme Courts that have come before, their decisions will affect the lives of all Americans.

When the President announced his nomination of Judge Roberts in July, we pledged to conduct a full, thorough, and fair review of Judge Roberts' credentials and qualifications. We also pledged we would conduct those deliberations in a timely and expeditious manner so the Supreme Court could begin its term on October 3 at full strength. We have delivered on both promises.

I thank Chairman ARLEN SPECTER for his leadership and handling of the hearings process, and I also want to thank my colleagues for moving forward so the Supreme Court can do its important work for the American people.

I expect a strong bipartisan vote in support for Judge Roberts later this morning. As has been said by Members on both sides of the aisle, Judge Roberts is an exceptional candidate who possesses the keen intelligence, the exemplary character, and sterling credentials to serve as Chief Justice of the highest Court in the land. I look forward to confirming him to lead the Supreme Court of the United States.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Massachusetts is recognized.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, my friend and colleague, the Senator from New York, is here. He wants to speak briefly. I know the time is divided for the next hour. I ask unanimous consent that he follow my remarks.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The time is equally divided.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, for the information of my colleagues, Senator LOTT has been scheduled to speak. When he comes, we will be alternating back and forth.

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



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