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Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, January 30, 1995)

The Senate met at 9:15 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by a guest chaplain, the Reverend Richard C. Halverson, Jr., Arlington, VA.

PRAYER

The guest chaplain, the Reverend Richard C. Halverson, Jr., of Arlington, VA, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Almighty God, Thy Word declares: "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: This is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these."

Lord, on this St. Valentine's Day, as we labor to pass important legislation, cause us to observe that preeminent law which was decreed at the beginning of time, which is revered in every religion, and which is the foundation of every good law, the law of love.

Help us, Lord, to love Thee, whom we most often neglect. Help us to love our neighbor, whom we cannot always select. Help us to love ourselves, whom we sometimes do not accept. And help us to love our country in the laws we here direct.

In the name of Him who is incarnate love, Jesus Christ. Amen.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of House Joint Resolution 1, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A House joint resolution (H.J. Res. 1) proposing a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

The Senate resumed consideration of the joint resolution.

Pending:

Reid amendment No. 236, to protect the Social Security system by excluding the receipts and outlays of Social Security from balanced budget calculations.

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that—the Senator from Utah will soon be here, is that right?

Mr. LOTT. Yes.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Utah and the Senator from Nevada each have 7½ minutes. That was the original agreement, and it will put off the vote for approximately 3 or 4 minutes.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, that is my understanding. I think we can go ahead and begin. Perhaps the Senator can take his time and Senator HATCH will be here momentarily.

Mr. REID. I am going to reserve the final 2½ minutes because it is my amendment.

Mr. BUMPERS. If the Senator will yield, is he saying the vote will not occur until when?

Mr. REID. Within 3 or 4 minutes of 9:30.

Mr. BUMPERS. I thank the Senator.

Mr. LOTT. If the Senator will yield 1 second more, I understand that the majority leader, Senator DOLE, wants 2 minutes at the very end.

Mr. REID. I forgot to mention that Senator DASCHLE is also going to speak for a brief time.

Mr. BUMPERS. I wanted to point out, Mr. President, that if I do not leave here at 9:30, I am not going to get to make a speech. Obviously, I am not going to be able to make that speech.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to advise me when I have 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. President, Social Security is presently running huge surpluses. This year, \$70 billion; in 2002 over \$700 billion, and a few years after that, it will be \$3 trillion.

It now appears that there are people who want to tap into that surplus in an effort to balance the budget. My amendment draws a line in the sand that says you cannot tap Social Security to balance the budget. Those Social Security trust funds which have been set aside for some 60-odd years, should be kept in the trust fund and they should not be looted. It should not become a Social Security slush fund. It is unfair to seniors, unfair to the baby boomers, and certainly unfair to today's youth, to raid the Social Security trust fund.

This Congress realizes this. This Senate realized this when, in 1990, by a vote of 98 to 2, we set up Social Security as a separate part of our revenues. It was no longer part of the general revenues of this country. A vote to kill my amendment will mark the death knell, I predict, of Social Security.

Everybody in this Chamber has made public pronouncements that they want to protect Social Security. The only way to protect Social Security is by voting for my amendment.

Mr. President, if you try to do it by implementing legislation, it is unconstitutional once the underlying amendment passes. Anything less than my amendment would be an express statement that you are willing to have the

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



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