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Senate

(Legislative day of Wednesday, February 22, 1995)

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The prayer this morning will be offered by the Reverend Dr. Ernest R. Gibson, pastor of the First Rising Mount Zion Baptist Church, Washington, DC.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, the Reverend Dr. Ernest R. Gibson, pastor of the First Rising Mount Zion Baptist Church, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

*When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet. * * * O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!—Psalm 8:3-6, 9.*

Lord, Thou hast given to us, Your human creatures, such awesome responsibilities. Be near unto Your servants here in the Senate when the burden is especially heavy. Lord, give peace in times of confusion, comfort in times of anxiety, and direction in times of doubt. May Thine own power and spirit be in Your servants so that as they exercise dominion over things Thou hast placed in their care, may "Thy will be done."

In the name of Him who taught us to pray, "Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.—Matthew 6:10. Amen.

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 now be a period for the transaction of morning business for not to extend beyond the hour of 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, for the information for my colleagues, this morning the time for the two leaders has been reserved and there will now be a period for the transaction of routine morning business until the hour of 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each, with the following Senators to speak for up to these designated times: Senator DASCHLE for 20 minutes; Senator SIMPSON, 20 minutes; Senator LAUTENBERG, 10 minutes; Senator BURNS, 15 minutes.

At the hour of 11 a.m., the Senate will resume consideration of House Joint Resolution 1, the constitutional balanced budget amendment. Under the unanimous-consent agreement, Senators will have until 3 o'clock today in order to offer their amendments to the resolution.

There will be no rollcall votes during today's session of the Senate. Senators should be on notice that any rollcall votes ordered on amendments today will be ordered to occur stacked in the sequence of votes beginning at 2:15 on Tuesday, February 28.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAMS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Under the previous order, the Senator from Montana [Mr. BURNS] is recognized to speak for up to 15 minutes.

DEFENSE BUDGET AND BRAC

Mr. BURNS. I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I rise today not only in support of the balanced budget amendment, but also to bring the attention of this body to some activities and some events in this Government that I find very disconcerting.

As we look at the budgets of the different organizations and programs this Government sponsors, and is charged to do so, I am concerned about the defense budget. It has been cut far too deeply, far too soon, as we have put too much focus, maybe, on some of the domestic issues and are too hesitant to look at the future security of this country.

The defense budget is constantly being raided for unrelated purposes, research and development programs are shortchanged, and even the procurement of weapons has been neglected. The cost is a collapse of near-term readiness and, of course, what I fear probably we are moving toward is a hollow force. So far, the administration and the Congress have not been willing to spend enough to maintain a well-prepared military force.

Defense advisers to President Clinton acknowledge that the Pentagon is some \$49 billion short of the amount needed to fund their planned force for fiscal years 1996 through 2001. GAO, the General Accounting Office, determined the shortfall was actually \$150 billion over that same period.

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



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