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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 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:

*In quietness and trust shall be your strength.—Isaiah 30:15.*

Almighty God, for a brief moment we retreat into our inner world, that wonderful trysting place where we find Your strength. Here we escape from the noise of demanding voices and pressured conversations. With You there are no speeches to give, positions to defend, or party loyalties to push. In Your presence we can simply be. You love us in spite of our mistakes and give us a new beginning each day. We thank You that we can depend on Your guidance in all that is ahead of us. Suddenly we realize that this quiet moment in which we have placed our trust in You has refreshed us. We are replenished with new hope. Now we can return to our outer world with greater determination to keep our priorities straight. Today is a magnificent opportunity to serve You by giving our very best to our leadership of our Nation. In the name of our Lord and Savior. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able assistant majority leader is recognized.

### THE CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, I congratulate the Chaplain for once again delivering a beautiful prayer for not only the Senate but for our Nation as well.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, today the Senate will immediately resume consideration of H.R. 3448, the small business tax package legislation, with time until 12:30 equally divided between the two managers or their designees. The Senate will recess from the hours of 12:30 to 2:15 for the weekly policy conferences to meet. At 2:15, immediately following the conferences, the Senate will begin voting on pending amendments to the small business tax legislation. Under a previous agreement, following those votes, the Senate will begin consideration of S. 295, the TEAM Act.

Senators should also be reminded the vote on passage of the Department of Defense authorization bill will now occur at 12 noon on Wednesday. Following the vote on the Defense bill, there will be a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to S. 1788, the National Right To Work Act, to be followed by any votes ordered on amendments to the TEAM Act legislation. Also, on Wednesday morning at 10 a.m., there will be a joint meeting of Congress to hear an address by the Prime Minister of Israel.

So to repeat, for the information of all my colleagues, we will have 3 hours of debate and discussion on the tax component of the bill pending before us today. At 2:15 we will have a vote immediately on the Bond-Lott amendment, followed by a vote on the Kennedy amendment, followed by a rollcall vote, if necessary, on the tax portion of this bill, followed by final passage. For the information of all our colleagues, we will have a series of votes beginning at 2:15. We urge all Members to be attentive and ask that those rollcalls move expeditiously.

I now call on my colleague, Senator ROTH, from Delaware, to manage the tax portion of this bill.

### SMALL BUSINESS JOB PROTECTION ACT OF 1996

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 3448, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3448) to provide tax relief for small businesses, to protect jobs, to create opportunities, to increase the take-home pay of workers, to amend the Portal-to-Portal Act of 1947 relating to the payment of wages to employees who use employer-owned vehicles, and to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to increase the minimum wage rate and to prevent job loss by providing flexibility to employers in complying with minimum wage and overtime requirements under that act.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Kennedy amendment No. 4435, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide for an increase in the minimum wage rate and to exempt computer professionals from the minimum wage and maximum hour requirements, and to amend the Portal-to-Portal Act of 1947 relating to the payment of wages to employees who use employer-owned vehicles.

Bond amendment No. 4272, to modify the payment of wages provisions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time until 12:30 p.m. shall be equally divided between the Senator from Delaware and the Senator from New York or their designees.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, may I ask the Senator a question? Did the Senator include a vote on the TEAM Act after the Defense authorization? Is that referenced in the Senator's list of votes?

Mr. NICKLES. The Senator is correct.

Mr. KENNEDY. I thank the Senator. The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who seeks recognition?

Mr. ROTH addressed the Chair.

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



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