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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 4, 1997, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 1997

SCHEDULE

The Senate met at 11 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:

Gracious Lord, thank You for the liberating power of an unreserved commitment to You and to our work in Government. When we commit to You our lives and each of the challenges we face, we are not only released from the tension of living on our own limited resources, but a mysterious movement of Your providence begins. The company of Heaven, plus people and circumstances, begin to rally to our aid. Unexpected resources are released, unexplainable good things start happening. The time to begin is now, and the place is here. We all have personal and professional burdens on our shoulders. Commitment is to roll them off our shoulders onto Your strong shoulders, Almighty God. We commit the challenges of this day to You and press on to our work with freedom and joy. We claim the promise of Proverbs 16:3, "Commit your works to the Lord and your thoughts will be established." We claim that, Lord.

Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

Mr. LOTT. Good morning, Mr. President.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today, we will be in a period for morning business in order for all Senators to introduce legislation and to make statements in connection and support of those pieces of legislation, or to make statements on other issues, if they so desire.

As we announced last night, no rollcall votes will occur during today's session, and when the Senate completes its business today, it will stand in adjournment until Monday, January 27, for a pro forma session only. No business will be conducted during Monday's session, and the Senate will automatically adjourn over until Tuesday, January 28.

As all Members are aware, throughout the past week, and continuing into next week, committees are holding hearings with regard to various nominations for the President's Cabinet. That is one reason why we are trying to not force activity on the floor of the Senate, so that the committees can do their work and so the proper investigations and hearings can be held. It is my hope that next week the Senate will be able to consider additional nominations that may become available to the full Senate. It looks like there may be one or two that would be available next week sometime.

So I remind all Senators that rollcall votes are possible, and hopefully likely, beginning on Tuesday and throughout the week on those nominations or other matters that may become available.

Finally, I thank all of my colleagues for their cooperation in allowing us to finish action on the two nominations

yesterday. It was not planned and it was not easy, because some Senators had made other arrangements. We had some Senators that wanted to go to Massachusetts for the wake of Senator Tsongas, and then we have the funeral proceedings today. But we were able to work through that, and there was a little give and take and I appreciate that.

I will be sending a letter—hopefully joined by the Democratic leader—if not tomorrow, early next week, to also ask Senators at the beginning of the session to be helpful to the leadership by not making unreasonable requests as to when votes will occur. I was shocked last year, when I came in as majority leader, at the requests we got from Senators who said, "Can we not have a vote until 11 o'clock on Tuesday?" "Could we not have any votes between 4 o'clock and 7 o'clock on Thursday?"

If we want to have a family friendly Senate, it begins with individual Senators. We will always try to accommodate all Senators wherever we can, and we work with the staff on both sides of the aisle when there are extenuating circumstances—planes are delayed, or when there are funerals that must be attended—and that's fine. But I really think that the practice that has evolved—and I believe it has evolved over several years—where 1 Senator is willing to ask 99 Senators to inconvenience themselves for their one need, is out of control. It is ridiculous and unfair. We are not going to be able to get our work done and be able to go home at a reasonable hour at night if we can't have votes on Monday, if we can't have any votes until 11 o'clock on Tuesday, and cannot vote on Thursday

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



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