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Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m., and was called to order by the Honorable SUSAN M. COLLINS, a Senator from the State of Maine.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Spirit of the living God, we confess the banked fires of faith in the hearths of our hearts. White ash often covers the burned-down embers. The danger of burnout is always present when we become so busy that there is little time to be refueled by Your love and power, Your wisdom and strength. You never meant for us to make it on our own. Our responsibilities are too great to face without a constant replenishment of Your inspiration. Bellow the flickering embers of our hearts until they are white hot again with the fire of patriotism, vision and hope, conviction and courage. Holy Spirit, we need You. Thank You for setting us ablaze with Your fire. Amen.

APPOINTMENT OF THE ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 5, 1997.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule 1, Section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SUSAN M. COLLINS, a Senator from the State of Maine, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,
President pro tempore.

Ms. COLLINS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

Mr. NICKLES. Madam President, I thank you.

SCHEDULE

Mr. NICKLES. Today, the Senate will begin a period of morning business until 3 p.m. this afternoon. At 3 p.m., the Senate will begin consideration of Senate Joint Resolution 1, the constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget. By unanimous consent, during today's session no amendments will be in order to Senate Joint Resolution 1. Senators, hopefully, will make their opening statements throughout the day, and I encourage all Members to make remarks today so that on Thursday we will be prepared to make progress on this important constitutional amendment.

For the remainder of the week, it is still possible the Senate will consider any of the available nominations that have been or will be reported from committee. As always, Senators will be notified of any rollcall votes as they are scheduled.

I might mention that it is anticipated no votes will occur today, but that has not been totally decided. So with that, I thank my colleagues and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWNBACK). Under the previous order, the Senator from Maine [Ms. COLLINS], is recognized to speak for up to 30 minutes.

Ms. COLLINS. Thank you, Mr. President.

REPRESENTING THE PEOPLE OF MAINE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, it is with great pride that I rise to address my colleagues for the first time from the floor of the U.S. Senate, the world's greatest deliberative body. I

am honored to be standing where once stood Senator Margaret Chase Smith, who was such an inspiration to me as a young girl growing up in Caribou, ME.

In all of history, only 26 women have served in the Senate, only 15 of us elected in our own right. I am especially proud that my home State is the first to send two Republican women to serve in the Senate at the same time. And I am very pleased to be sharing that honor with my colleague, Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE.

During my youth, the people of Maine were fortunate to have an inspiring example of a woman who stood tall for her principles and for her State. As a Senator from 1949 to 1972, Margaret Chase Smith taught us that women could reach the highest levels of government and that hard work, common sense, and integrity are rewarded.

Equally important, Senator Smith taught us how to govern. She recognized it is only through civil discourse and a spirit of cooperation that the people's business gets done. And she showed us all, through her deeds as well as her words, that there is a difference between the principle of compromise and the compromise of principle. Compromising one's principles is wrong. Compromising on how to achieve those principles is the essence of a healthy democracy.

Each of us is called to serve, and the different ways in which we are called form the fabric of this great Nation. Some are called to heal and become doctors and nurses. Others are called to impart wisdom to the next generation and become teachers. Others are called to work in the businesses, large and small, that provide the products and services that enrich our daily lives. Still others are called to be the entrepreneurs who create the jobs that keep this country at the forefront of the world's economy.

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



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