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Senate

The Senate met at 10 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:

Almighty God, without whom we could not take a breath or think a thought, we are accountable to You for the way we live the precious days of our lives. Often we hear people who have escaped from some accident or some life-threatening illness say, ''God must have some reason for saving my life. I want to find out what it is and get on with it.'' May all of us be no less grateful for life or no less intentional in living out the special purpose You have for us.

Suddenly, we feel differently about the relationships and responsibilities of the day ahead. You have plans for us and we don't want to miss them. There are things You have appointed us to do and if we don't do them, they will not be done. Help us not to procrastinate by putting off to the day after tomorrow what needs to be done today.

Lord, fill us with Your spirit and give us an enthusiastic, positive attitude for today. Help us to express delight in the people of our lives. They have enough burdens to carry; may we not be one of them. We can choose whether we will drag our feet today or walk with a spring in our step because You are the unseen, but loyal Friend who holds our hands. Through our Lord and Saviour.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized, Mr. BENNETT.

SCHEDULE

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until the hour of 2 p.m. to accommodate a number of Senators who have requested time to speak. It is my hope an agreement will be reached this morning to begin consideration of S. 495 regarding the unlawful use or transfer of chemical weapons. If an agreement is reached, Senators can expect a couple of hours of debate beginning probably around 2 p.m. on the bill, with a vote later this afternoon.

Therefore, Senators can expect rollcall votes during today's session of the Senate. As always, of course, the majority leader will notify Senators as agreements are reached.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH of Oregon). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 2 p.m, with each Senator permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes.

The Senator from Utah is recognized to speak for up to 1 hour.

Mr. BENNETT. I thank the Chair.

THE BUDGET

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, this time of year is budget time. Since it is budget time, it is a time when the Senate Chamber has been filled with speeches about budgets, debt, the economy, taxes, and all the rest of the subjects that have to do with our joint effort—joint, meaning Members of both parties, Members of both Houses, Members of both branches, the executive as well as the legislative—to achieve a balanced budget by the year 2002. That is a very laudable goal, one that has been put off for too long. I am delighted to be here representing the State of Utah as the Congress launches itself in this effort.

However, as I have listened to these speeches on both sides of the aisle, it has occurred to me that there is more political sloganeering than analytical analysis that leads toward a better understanding of the problems we face. Therefore, I take the floor today in an effort to lay out what I think is a clear understanding of where we are and what we are looking at with respect to the budget, our deficit, and our future.

One of Washington's most thoughtful and capable political reporters, David Broder, did a column on this subject in which he addressed the issue of whether or not we should have tax cuts in the middle of the debate over balancing the budget. He coined a magnificently succinct phrase. He lauded those who said we must put off tax cuts until the budget is balanced, stating it this way: ''In other words, eat your spinach before you get the dessert.''

It is a great phrase and worthy of Mr. Broder's skill as a journalist. It also happens to be wrong.

It implies that tax cuts are without nourishment and have no contribution to the meal. They are a reward for doing your job rather than an integral part of doing your job. Much as I respect Mr. Broder and those who have echoed this sentiment in this Chamber, I think that they are in error. We must examine the whole circumstance of where we are in order to understand the role that proper tax policy can play.

Now, in this Chamber, one very familiar image has been with us during this debate which, like David Broder's phrase, is very compelling and very easy to understand. The image is drawn by people on both sides of 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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