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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.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, our hearts are filled with an attitude of gratitude for the gifts of life, intellect, emotion, will, strength, fortitude, and courage. We are privileged to live in this free land You have so richly blessed.

You have created each of us to know, love, and serve You. Thanksgiving is the memory of our hearts. You have shown us that gratitude is the parent of all other virtues. Without gratitude our lives miss the greatness You intended, and remain proud, self-centered, and limited. Thanksgiving is the thermostat of our souls opening us to the inflow of Your Spirit and the realization of even greater blessings.

But so often we need to thank You for the problems that make us more dependent on You for Your guidance and strength. When we have turned to You in the past, You have given us the leadership skills we needed. Thank You, Lord, for taking us where we are with all our human weaknesses, and using us for Your glory. May we always be distinguished by the immensity of our gratitude for the way You pour out Your wisdom and vision when with humility we call out to You for help. We are profoundly grateful, in the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator LOTT of Mississippi, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. For the information of all Senators, today the Senate will immediately resume consideration of S. 4,

the Family Friendly Workplace Act. By previous consent, Senator KENNEDY or his designee will be recognized for 30 minutes of debate to be followed by Senator ASHCROFT for up to 30 minutes. At the expiration of that time, the Senate will proceed to a vote on cloture on the substitute amendment to S. 4. Senators can therefore expect that cloture vote at approximately 4 p.m. today. I guess it will probably be shortly after 4. Senators are also reminded that they have until 3:30 this afternoon in order to file second-degree amendments to the substitute to S. 4. It is my hope that cloture will be invoked and the Senate can then proceed to conclude action on this very important measure. If that is the case, Senators should be prepared to continue the debate and vote on amendments to S. 4.

In addition, as previously announced, it is my hope that we can conclude work on the budget conference report—and I understand the conferees have met today and should be able to complete the conference, if not this afternoon, sometime tomorrow—and the supplemental appropriations conference report as soon as those items are available for consideration.

Now, I understand that some of my colleagues are concerned about the supplemental appropriations conference report and are now talking about extensive debate. I do want to say that I have just been advised that the conferees have been working and they feel they have made real good progress and, as a matter of fact, they could conclude action on the conference report even within the hour now. Knowing how conferences work, sometimes when you get right to the end, that last 10 percent or 2 percent causes a problem and they may still encounter further delays. But the appropriators and the conferees are meeting, they are working, and I believe they are making progress. Hopefully, they will get to some conclusion this afternoon on the conference report that we could vote on.

I understand the frustration of Members on all sides. It is very important language here. The administration needs to understand that Pennsylvania Avenue is a two-way street. It doesn't just come from the Capitol down to the White House, where we send down billions of the taxpayers' dollars; we have to get a little cooperation. We feel very strongly about the importance of a law enforcement commission to take a look at the overall application of law enforcement in America. We feel very strongly about the census issue. How do we make sure that it's fair and thorough and complete and accurate? We may come to an agreement on how that can be done, either in terms of actual count or some modification, but not without consultation and not without the Congress being involved in a constitutional issue. We also remind people that the only way—the only way—the disaster funds will stop flowing from FEMA or SBA—and the money is flowing right now—is if we have some sort of fun and games at the end of the fiscal year with a Government shutdown.

I think we can work these matters out. We should. But everybody needs to understand these are important issues. This is not abnormal. I have been through supplemental bills probably 24 times or more in my career in Congress. I have been through disasters. There is nothing new here. There is nothing out of order here. We need to keep working together, and if we heighten the rhetoric and the partisanship, it doesn't help.

I tried my very best to make sure that the Senate in fact is a family friendly workplace. I say to the Senator from Massachusetts, we have flexibility in our schedules and we have tried not to work into the wee hours of the night. In fact, I think only one night this year have we gone beyond 8:30. I think that is wise, because over the years I have noticed that any time the Congress, House or Senate, stays in

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



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