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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:

Gracious Lord, we commit this day to making other people happy. So often our prayers are for what we need You to do to make us happy. Now in this quiet time, inspire us to think imaginatively about how we can bring happiness to those with whom we work and those whose friendship we enjoy.

Lord, our tendency is to think of some big, grand thing we could do and then because of the immensity of it, we never get it done. Help us forgo these grandstanding feats of herosim and do something that simply makes life more of a joy to the people in our lives. We want to make this a day free of uncreative, unproductive criticism. Today, we will not be a nagging, fault-finding source of distress. Whatever we do that causes anxiety, help us to change.

We confess that often it is what we fail to do that causes unhappiness. We know people need encouragement and affirmation. Today we give up the control we get by withholding the attitude or the words of approval not just of what people are trying to do, but what they are striving to become. May the end of this day be a time for remembering the happy memories we gave others. That's what it's all about, and that's what we're going to be about today. In the name of Him who called us to serve others. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. ENZI] is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until the hour of 12 noon. By previous consent, at 12 noon, the Senate will begin consideration of S. 947, the budget reconciliation bill. Amendments will be offered to the reconciliation bill today. However, no rollcalls will occur during today's session of the Senate. All votes ordered today with respect to amendments to the reconciliation bill will be stacked to occur on Tuesday, June 24, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Senators should, therefore, be prepared for a series of stacked votes beginning at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Under the rules, the budget reconciliation bill is limited to 20 hours for debate, and it is the majority leader's hope that the two leaders will be able to reach an agreement to yield back some of that time.

Once the Senate completes the action on the first reconciliation bill, we will begin consideration of the second reconciliation bill, which is also limited to 20 hours for debate.

The leader has stated for the past several weeks that Senators should be prepared for a busy week of session. It is the leader's intention to remain in session until both reconciliation bills are completed. The Senate will adjourn for the Fourth of July recess once we finish our business this week. But the majority leader warns his colleagues that we will remain in session into the evening throughout this week and into the weekend, if necessary, until the reconciliation process is completed.

I thank all Senators for their attention.

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENZI). 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 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each. The Senator from Wyoming is recognized to speak for 60 minutes.

Mr. THOMAS. Thank you, Mr. President. Don't be alarmed, I expect to have some of my associates here to share in that time.

TAX RELIEF

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, we do want to talk this morning, however, about an item of great importance to all of us—the citizens and to all of us as Members of the Senate—and that is taxation, the question that will be before the Senate this week, as the Finance Committee has completed their work on the reconciliation bill, and we will now be addressing that.

We will be talking about tax relief, which I suspect is perhaps one of the most important topics we will talk about this entire year, not only because of the tax aspect of it because, as you go into the budget process, it seems to me that budgets are much more than just numbers, they are much more than various spending proposals, they sort of set the parameters of what we will be doing in Government for at least the coming year; in this case, at least 5 years.

These decisions will frame the size of the Government over time. If you prefer smaller governments or larger governments—I happen to prefer smaller ones—the budget has to do with that. The budget has to do with the kinds of priorities that we will set among programs, among the kinds of things that

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



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