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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, April 27, 1998, at 2:00 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 1998

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:

Sovereign God, we claim Your promise through Jeremiah, "Call to me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know."—Jeremiah 33:3. We need that assurance as we close this week of work.

Lord, we want to do our work today and end this workweek so that You will be able to say, "Well done, good and faithful servant." It is liberating to know that we have only You to please. You enable excellence in us that more than meets the expectations of others. Keep our eyes focused on You. Our ultimate goal is to glorify You and enjoy You forever. Add life to our years and years to our life. May our joy of serving You give us freedom. We cast all our burdens on You so that we may work without the tension of worry today. You are with us in all the ups and downs of life. There is no problem or circumstance beyond Your control. There is no panic in heaven and there is peace in our hearts when we trust You completely. Thank You for Your abiding love, through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President. (Mr. SMITH of Oregon assumed the chair.)

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will begin consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 1757, the State Department reorganization bill, under a 6-hour time agreement. Under the previous order, the vote on the conference report will occur on Tuesday, April 28 at 2:25 p.m.

On Monday, following morning business, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the NATO expansion treaty. It is hoped that Members who wish to offer amendments to the treaty will come to the floor on Monday to offer and debate those amendments.

We have had some discussion already on this NATO enlargement. I remember very well an outstanding speech given on the floor by the distinguished Senator from Oregon a month or so ago, a beautiful speech laced with history. It made an indelible impression upon my mind.

Senators have claimed that we have not enough time on NATO enlargement, or that the issue has been unfocused. But one of the problems has been that Senators have not been willing to come to the floor and offer their amendments.

Beginning Monday, the debate will be focused and uninterrupted on this very important issue of the NATO treaty alliance. We will spend all day on Monday and all day on Tuesday with the only interruption being the vote at 2:25

when we come back in from our policy luncheons. We will spend whatever time is necessary on Tuesday and Wednesday. I hope that we can complete it Wednesday after a thoughtful debate. Every Senator will have an opportunity to make a statement, if he or she wishes, or to offer amendments. But we must begin the process, and it includes having amendments in fact offered so we can bring it to a conclusion.

I remind our colleagues that we still have a lot of very important issues that we need to take up. Unfortunately, earlier in the year several committees had not acted. But committees are acting profusely, and good bills are beginning to line up now. I would like to begin to move bills. In fact, we probably are going to have a high-tech period where we take up as many as 10 bills from a variety of committees that are important to the high-tech area, all the way from antislamming in the telephone area to gambling on the Internet, and a lot of things in between and beyond those. We have other good bills that we want to try to consider.

In order to be able to do that and get to the IRS reform package the week after next, we are just going to have to have more cooperation. If Members continue to delay, then there will be more nights like last night where we were here at 8 or 8:30 or 9. I don't think our work is as good when we are working late into the night.

As a reminder to all Members, there will be a rollcall vote on Monday at 6 p.m. on an Executive Calendar matter to be determined today by the majority

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



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