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## Senate

(Legislative day of Friday, October 2, 1998)

The Senate met at 11 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, Sovereign of this Nation and Lord of our lives, grant us Your peace for the pressures of this week. May Your peace keep us calm when tensions mount and serene when strain causes stress. Remind us that You are in control and that there is enough time to do what You want us to accomplish.

Fill this Senate Chamber with Your presence. May we hear Your whisper in our souls, "Be not afraid; I am with you." Bless the women and men of this Senate with a special measure of Your strength for the demanding schedule ahead. Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

### SCHEDULE

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will be in a period for morning business until 2 p.m. Following morning business, it will be the leaders' intention to begin consideration of the agriculture appropriations conference report under a short time agreement. The Senate may also resume consideration of S. 442, the Internet tax bill. At 5:30 p.m., under a previous order, the Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to H.R. 10, the financial services modernization bill.

Further votes could occur following the cloture vote in relation to the mo-

tion to proceed, and if consent is granted, a vote on or in relation to the agriculture conference report, the Internet tax bill, or any other legislative or executive items cleared for action.

Members are reminded that a cloture petition was filed on Friday to the Internet tax bill. That vote will occur immediately following the adoption of the motion to proceed to the financial modernization bill, if cloture is invoked today at 5:30 p.m.

In addition, as a result of cloture being filed on the Internet bill on Friday, members have until 1 p.m. today to file first-degree amendments to the Internet bill.

Mr. President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that the time under the control of Senator MACK begin at 12 noon today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENZI). Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ASHCROFT. 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. The Senate will now proceed to a period for the transaction of morning business until 2 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes with the following exceptions: The Senator from Missouri controls the time until 12 noon; the Senator from Florida, Mr. MACK, 15 minutes; the Senator from Montana, Mr. BAUCUS, controls the time from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m.

The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, thank you.

### TAX CUTS

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I am pleased to have this opportunity to begin a discussion today which should clarify some of the competing rhetoric and certainly some of the misinformation that is being spoken about the potential for tax cuts in our culture.

We are taxed at the highest rates in history. Never before have the American people been asked to devote so much of their hard-earned resources to government. Yet there are lots of statements made about the incapacity of this government to afford tax cuts to the American people, to give them some more of what they have earned in return for their hard work.

I rise today to speak the truth about tax cuts, to speak the truth about the so-called emergency spending, about Social Security, and about the budget surplus. A group of like-minded Senators and I have been engaged in a long and arduous fight to return to the American taxpayers more of their own money. We are here to announce that we are not giving up that fight. It may now be clear that the Senate will not be passing a tax cut this year.

Even if the majority leader were to bring the House-passed bill to the floor, there are just too many Members, big spenders, if you will, who are more interested in spending the surplus than returning the surplus to the rightful owners—those who generated the surplus. I only wish the advocacy groups who attack tax cuts would be honest enough to criticize the President and the other big spenders as they spend the surplus on more and more government programs and projects.

Senators INHOFE, GRAMS, BROWNBACK, BOB SMITH and I have waged a long battle, battle after battle, as a matter of

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



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