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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, March 8, 1999, at 2 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1999

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by a guest Chaplain, Father Paul Lavin of St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill Church, Washington, DC.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Father Paul Lavin, St. Joseph's on Capitol Hill Church, Washington, DC, offered the following prayer:

Listen to the word of the prophet Isaiah: "If you remove from your midst oppression, false accusation and malicious speech; if you bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted; then light shall rise for you in the darkness, and the gloom shall become for you like midday; then the Lord will guide you always and give you plenty even on the parched land."—Is. 58:9-11 NAB.

Let us pray:

Lord, we thank You and we praise You for the goodness of our people and for the spirit of justice that fills our Nation. We thank You for the beauty and the fullness of the land and for the challenge of the cities. We thank You for our work, for our rest, for one another, and for our homes.

Look with favor on the men and women who serve in this Senate. Help them to foster love and to uphold justice and right. Strengthen them and strengthen all of us with Your grace and wisdom, for You are God forever and ever.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, this morning, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 280, the Education Flexibility Partnership Act. Amendments are expected to be offered this morning. Therefore, Members should expect at least one rollcall vote by 10:30 a.m.

As a reminder to all Senators, a cloture motion was filed last night to the Jeffords substitute amendment, and the vote has been set to occur at 5 p.m. on Monday. Also, under rule XXII, Members have until 1 p.m. today to file first-degree amendments to the substitute.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEWINE). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

EDUCATIONAL FLEXIBILITY PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1999

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 280, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 280) to provide for education flexibility partnerships.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Jeffords amendment No. 31, in the nature of a substitute.

Bingaman amendment No. 35 (to amendment No. 31), to provide for a national school dropout prevention program.

Lott amendment No. 37 (to amendment No. 35), to authorize additional appropriations to carry out part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, this week the Senate has been debating S. 280, the Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999. During the debate, we have heard various interpretations of Ed-Flex. I want to take a moment to remind my colleagues about the idea behind Ed-Flex.

The Department of Education, under the leadership of Secretary Riley, has stated that Ed-Flex authority will help States in "removing potential regulatory barriers to the successful implementation of comprehensive school reform" efforts.

Under Ed-Flex, the Department of Education gives a State some authority to grant waivers to a State, giving each State the ability to make decisions about whether some school districts may be granted waivers pertaining to certain Federal requirements.

I would like to remind my colleagues that States cannot waive any Federal regulatory or statutory requirements relating to health and safety, civil rights, maintenance of effort, comparability of services, equitable participation of students and professional

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



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