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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, April 10, 2000, at 12:30 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2000

The Senate met at 9:02 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:

Father, help us to accept our humanity. Life is a struggle when we pretend to have it all together. We end this week in honest confession of the times that we forgot You, went for hours, even days, without asking for Your help, and endured life's pressures as if we could be our own source of strength. In the quiet of this moment, we invite You to fill our depleted resources with Your spirit. We want to let You love us, forgive us, renew us, and grant us fresh strength. To this end, we admit our needs and accept Your power. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable WAYNE ALLARD, a Senator from the State of Colorado, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, today the Senate will continue to vote on the

remaining amendments to S. Con. Res. 101. Needless to say, votes are expected to occur throughout the morning with an expectation of voting this afternoon and perhaps into the evening, if we are not able to resolve some of the pending sense-of-the-Senate amendments and other amendments.

There are 2 minutes of explanation on amendments prior to each vote. To make this process as smooth as possible, I ask that Senators remain in the Chamber between votes. I thank my colleagues for their cooperation.

We will be talking with various Senators about amendments. So that everybody will know, there are 75 amendments filed by Republicans and 36 by Democrats. We are going to work with our Democratic minority whip and the ranking member of the Budget Committee to see if we can encourage a number of Senators to accept sense-of-the-Senate proposals and let us accept them on both sides. We will be working diligently at that. If we don't have success, then looking at this, I say that probably we would not finish before 6 o'clock tonight, or even later. We will work very hard. If Members will help us, we can do better than that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. L. CHAFEE). The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we have lined up five votes on each side. I say, however, to my friend, the manager of the bill, there is a tremendous amount of staff time that is still going to be required. Each side has not been able to review each other's amendments. I respectfully suggest to the majority that the minority doesn't think we have done anything untoward in offering

amendments. We have offered half as many as the majority. This doesn't mean they should have twice as many cleared as we have cleared. If both sides can work out the clearance, that is fine.

The point I am trying to make is that we are trying to work our way through this amendment process. If there is some effort, in effect, to try to punish us by staying here late to work through these amendments, we are willing to do that. I think the more logical way to go would be to work our way through the amendments.

I say to the distinguished Senator from New Mexico, we would be much better off if we gave the staff a matter of hours, perhaps days, to work their way through these amendments. These are very difficult subjects. As to the sense-of-the-Senate aspect, most of those have been resolved. There are some that are very substantive in nature, and we need to work our way through them.

I personally think it is going to be impossible to finish this bill today. If we have to vote on all these amendments, we are not talking about 6 o'clock tonight; we are talking about 6 o'clock Monday morning. It is up to the majority whether they want to put us through this. I think the more logical way to do it would be to have our very proficient staffs work on these amendments over the weekend and get it down to a reasonable number so we can complete this bill next week.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. DOMENICI. We will carry the Senator's message to 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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