United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 108th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 149 WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2003 No. 17

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, January 31, 2003, at 10 a.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 2003

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. This morning we will be led in prayer by our guest Chaplain, Dr. J. Howard Edington of the First Presbyterian Church in Orlando, FL.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

God on high, hear my prayer: You have led us in the past, lead us still. Gathered in this historic chamber are those who, by Your leave and by the will of the people, have been chosen to lead this Nation. We are a Nation of constitutional ideals; may these Senators lead us always to uphold them. We are a Nation made great by moral conviction; may they not rest until every American has shared in that greatness. We are a Nation which exalts freedom; may they never forget that true freedom exists for each of us only when that freedom exists for all of us. We are a Nation blessed by extraordinary bounty; may their decisions ultimately prove to be a blessing to people whose lives may be anything but bountiful.

Great God, in these days when the red, white, and blue waves proudly over our land, may the truths that flag represents take root in the hearts of both our leaders and our people. May the red of sacrifice, the white of purity, and the blue of loyalty mark the way these Senators lead and the way the American people live; and may we celebrate the fact that truth cannot be killed, love cannot be stopped, hope cannot be destroyed, freedom cannot be denied, and God cannot be defeated. Therefore, I pray, God bless America, and God bless us all. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I will announce the schedule for today. This morning, there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 1 p.m., with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees. A consent agreement was reached last night for the consideration of the nomination of Gordon England to be Deputy Secretary for Homeland Security. That debate and vote is expected this afternoon. We will notify all Members when that rollcall vote is expected.

In addition, the nomination of John Snow to be Secretary of the Treasury was reported by the Finance Committee by a unanimous vote this morning. It is hoped the Senate will be able to act on that important nomination during today's session. Therefore, additional votes can be expected during today's session of the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURNS). The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I want to ask the distinguished majority whip a question or two. It is my understanding this Friday the Democrats have a retreat in Washington. It is my understanding there is going to be a joint retreat of the congressional Republicans next Thursday and Friday. Is it fair to be able to tell Members that next Thursday and Friday there likely will be no votes?

Mr. MCCONNELL. It would be safe to say on Friday, but Thursday would not be safe to say.

Mr. REID. It is my understanding the train leaves at noon. So we could have something in the morning, is that the deal?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Yes.

Mr. REID. As I have indicated to the distinguished Senator from Kentucky before we came into session, we will work to see what we can do on the Snow nomination. As the Senator knows, we have one Member on our side who has some questions, I do not think as much with the individual but with some policies. I will talk to him shortly and see if we can expedite this matter.

Mr. MCCONNELL. It would be very helpful if that meeting with the Member about Mr. Snow could be expedited. That would be greatly appreciated.

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

Printed on recycled paper.