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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rev. Charles V. Antonicelli, St. Joseph's Church on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC.

### PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Lord God of power and might, we praise You this day for the life You have given us.

In these difficult days we ask for Your guidance and protection, dear Lord. In a special way, we ask You to protect the men and women of our Armed Forces. Keep them safe from harm and return them to us safely.

In the words of Psalm 40 we pray, "Lord, graciously rescue me! Come quickly to help me, Lord! Put to shame and confound all who seek to take my life. Turn back in disgrace those who desire my ruin. But may all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You."

Heavenly Father, we ask Your blessing on the women and men of this Senate as they are called upon to make difficult decisions which affect many lives. Grant them Your wisdom and compassion.

We ask this in Your holy name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU 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 MAJORITY LEADER

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

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, March 20, 2003.

*To the Senate:*

Under the provisions of rule I, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,  
*President pro tempore.*

Mr. JOHN E. SUNUNU thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the Senate will resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 23, the concurrent budget resolution this morning, with a total of 14½ hours left for debate on the resolution, 6½ hours remaining under the control of the chairman of the Budget Committee and 8 hours remaining under the control of the ranking member.

In view of the military action taking place in Iraq, the Senate will consider today a resolution of support for President Bush and the troops. The final wording on the resolution itself is being worked out by Members on both sides of the aisle.

I had an opportunity to talk to the majority leader a few minutes ago and we discussed the wording of the resolution. By late this morning or early afternoon the specific wording will be worked out.

I envision sufficient time for Senators to speak. A number of Senators have expressed their desire to speak in support of our troops, and we will accommodate that. Senators will be ad-

vised as to the time for this discussion and debate as well as when the vote on the resolution of support will take place later this morning or early afternoon after we have had a time for Members on both sides of the aisle to discuss the appropriate timing for that.

Both today and tomorrow will be very busy. We will complete action on the budget resolution this week. In order to provide adequate time for people to both express their support and at the same time finish the budget resolution this week, we will be in very late tonight, and I would assume tomorrow, and late tomorrow night, and possibly go into Saturday. Again, we will finish the budget resolution this week.

There are currently three amendments pending: The Kyl amendment regarding the estate tax, the Durbin amendment regarding a prescription drug benefit, and the Rockefeller and Collins amendment regarding aid to States. Under the previous order, the votes on these amendments will be stacked to occur at 4 o'clock today. Those votes will be the first votes today. There may be other votes stacked as well depending on what amendments are offered over the course of the morning.

We were here late last tonight. Again, I make the appeal that people file their amendments and talk to the chairman and ranking member, the managers of this important piece of legislation, so we can progress within the time elements that have been laid out, the 14½ hours remaining for debate on the resolution.

Mr. NICKLES. Will the majority leader yield?

Mr. FRIST. Yes, indeed.

Mr. NICKLES. I concur with what the leader said and also with my colleagues both from Nevada and North Dakota. I encourage colleagues if they do have amendments to please share those with us. We have three amendments in the queue. We are happy to look at amendments. We may be able

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



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