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Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Once again, our guest Chaplain is Rabbi Arnold E. Resnicoff, retired U.S. Navy Chaplain.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

PRAYER

O Lord who gives to everything a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven: a time for war; a time for peace; a time for life; a time for death; and always time for hope. We take time now, as this week starts, and as we pray—the fighting in Iraq nears its end, to honor those who serve, who fight, who sacrifice in times of war, so that the time of peace—of real peace—might be.

We take time now to offer thanks: for freedoms that are far from free, for they are bought and paid for at the cost of lives cut short, and family dreams that now can never be; and at the cost of lives that will be touched and haunted by memories so painful that most of us give thanks that we will never know, nor ever fully comprehend.

Lord, who gives to every thing a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven, we honor those who gave their lives; and we honor those who still live and serve, within a world that knows too well the time of war. And we honor in a special way their families, those they love and who love them, for whom the battlefields seem much more close to home.

Give us the faith, the strength, the wisdom, too, to do our part to bring about the time of peace for which they fought—and fight; the time of peace for which we pray; the time of peace, just peace, in which we must keep faith; the world of peace which we must do our part to build.

And let us say, Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TED STEVENS 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.

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12:45 p.m. Following morning business, the Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Deborah Cook to be a Federal judge for the Sixth Circuit.

Under the agreement entered into last week, there will be up to 4 hours of debate on the nomination prior to a vote. Therefore, the first vote will occur at 4:45 p.m. today, and it will be on the confirmation of Deborah Cook.

Upon the disposition of the Cook nomination, the Senate will debate the nomination of Miguel Estrada until 6 p.m., and at 6 p.m. the Senate will conduct its fifth cloture vote on the Estrada nomination.

The majority leader stated on a number of occasions that we are not going to give up on attempting to get Miguel Estrada an up-or-down vote.

In addition to these additional nominations, there are a number of other important issues to be considered during this coming week. On Tuesday, we will begin debate on the energy bill, although amendments will not be in order until Thursday. We are expecting Members to come to the floor to begin the debate on this much needed legislation.

Also, we have been working on agreements that would allow the Senate to consider the State Department reauthorization bill, the NATO expansion treaty, the bioshield bill, and the FISA legislation. Therefore, I will advise our colleagues to prepare for a very busy week with rollcalls each and every day.

Let me also say the majority leader hopes and expects that we will be doing the vote on the Roberts nomination Friday morning, which is pursuant to the agreement the assistant Democratic leader and myself and the two leaders were working on last week. So we hope to be able to wrap that nomination up on Friday as well.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I was listening closely. But the Senator said we would take up the energy bill on Tuesday with no amendments in order. Then he said Thursday. Maybe I misunderstood.

Mr. MCCONNELL. It is my understanding that there will not be any vote on the energy bill until Thursday, but we will take it up tomorrow.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 12:45 with the time equally divided between the majority leader and the Senator from North Dakota or their designees.

The Senator from Wyoming.

ADDITIONAL CLOTURE SIGNATURE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, first, let me ask unanimous consent that it be in order to add the following signature to the cloture motion filed on May 1.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The additional signature is as follows:

Peter G. Fitzgerald.

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



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