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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 3, 2003, at 2 p.m.

Senate

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2003

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The prayer will be offered by our Chaplain.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Almighty and everlasting God, the strength of all who trust You, as we begin, again, Freedom's business, we thank You for divine protection. Remind us daily that righteousness exalts a nation but that sin brings reproach to any people. Guide our leaders today that their words and thoughts may be acceptable in Your sight. Lord, keep our feet on the plain path of duty, and may our lives glorify Your name. May each of us remember that You are the sure rock upon which we can stand, even when the future seems uncertain. Give us the wisdom to trust You to order our steps. 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to consideration of H.R. 2660, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (H.R. 2660) making appropriations for the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for fiscal year ending September 30th, 2004, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I have been asked to make his introductory statement, and as indicated by the President pro tempore, we are taking up H.R. 2660, which is the appropriations bill for the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education.

As a procedural matter, in accordance with the custom of the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that all after the enacting clause be stricken and the text of Calendar No. 175, S. 1356, the Senate committee-reported bill, be inserted in lieu thereof, and the bill, as amended, be considered as original text for purpose of further amendment, and that no points of order be waived by reason of this agreement.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there an objection?

Mr. REID. On behalf of two Senators, I object.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The objection is heard.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, the bill which we are considering today is the largest of all of the appropriations bills, consisting of some \$472 billion, even larger than the Defense appropriations bill, although a major portion of that is on mandatory spending—Medicare, Medicaid, family assistance, and other mandatory provisions—which leaves \$137.6 billion to fund the three departments: the Department of Labor, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Education.

The amount of the discretionary spending is \$380 million below the President's budget request and \$435 billion below the amount the House of Representatives had to spend on Labor, HHS, and Education programs.

It is important to note that the House and Senate bills also have an additional \$2.2 billion in fiscal year 2004 which was achieved by pushing back advanced appropriations from fiscal year 2004 to fiscal year 2003.

On August 1, the last day of the session before the August recess, the majority leader, Senator FRIST, and I had a brief colloquy where the majority leader announced at that time for the information of all Senators and others that the first order of business of 9:30 on Tuesday, September 2nd, would be this appropriations bill. The Senate has an enormous agenda to take up during the month of September. As is well known, the fiscal year ends on September 30th and if there is to be any realistic chance of completing all 13 appropriations bills, with only two having been completed so far—the Department of Defense appropriation and

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



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