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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 24, 2004, at 2 p.m.

## Senate

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2004

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

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

God of our silent tears, You have made of one blood all the people on earth. As millions this month celebrate the African American contribution to our history, we thank You for using people of diverse racial backgrounds for Your glory. Thank You for heroes and heroines who gave their lives to carve tunnels of opportunity through mountains of bigotry. Thank You also that our founding forbears like George Washington and others knew that certain inalienable rights can only be conferred by You, our Creator, and they wrote socio-political documents that celebrated the dignity and worth of human personality.

Forgive those sad chapters in our history when our deeds fell far short of our creeds. Use our Senators to make laws that will unite rather than divide us. May they strive to provide models of unity that transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. Hasten the day when justice will roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream. We pray this in Your loving Name. 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 Repub-

lic 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.

### READING OF WASHINGTON'S FAREWELL ADDRESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senator from Louisiana, Mr. BREAU, will be recognized to deliver George Washington's Farewell Address.

Mr. BREAU at the rostrum read the Farewell Address, as follows:

*To the people of the United States:*

FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS: The period for a new election of a citizen to administer the executive government of the United States being not far distant, and the time actually arrived when your thoughts must be employed in designating the person who is to be clothed with that important trust, it appears to me proper, especially as it may conduce to a more distinct expression of the public voice, that I should now apprise you of the resolution I have formed, to decline being considered among the number of those out of whom a choice is to be made.

I beg you at the same time to do me the justice to be assured, that this resolution has not been taken without strict regard to all the considerations appertaining to the relation which binds a dutiful citizen to his country—and that, in withdrawing the tender of

service which silence in my situation might imply, I am influenced by no diminution of zeal for your future interest, no deficiency of grateful respect for your past kindness, but am supported by a full conviction that the step is compatible with both.

The acceptance of, and continuance hitherto in the office to which your suffrages have twice called me have been a uniform sacrifice of inclination to the opinion of duty, and to a deference for what appeared to be your desire. I constantly hoped that it would have been much earlier in my power, consistently with motives which I was not at liberty to disregard, to return to that retirement from which I had been reluctantly drawn. The strength of my inclination to do this, previous to the last election, had even led to the preparation of an address to declare it to you; but mature reflection on the then perplexed and critical posture of our affairs with foreign nations, and the unanimous advice of persons entitled to my confidence, impelled me to abandon the idea.

I rejoice that the state of your concerns external as well as internal, no longer renders the pursuit of inclination incompatible with the sentiment of duty or propriety; and am persuaded, whatever partiality may be retained for my services, that in the present circumstances of our country you will not disapprove my determination to retire.

The impressions with which I first undertook the arduous trust were explained on the proper occasion. In the discharge of this trust, I will only say that I have, with good intentions, contributed towards the organization 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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