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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 PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Dr. Phillip W. McClendon, Calvary Baptist Church, Joplin, MO.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Shall we pray.

Our Father, we praise You for Your love that embraces us and gives us security, Your joy that uplifts us and gives us resiliency, Your peace that floods our hearts and gives us calmness, Your Spirit that fills us and gives us strength and fortitude.

Guide us, Lord, so we can maximize the hours of this week. Help us to think clearly without confusion, to speak without resentment, to debate without division, and to decide courageously without strife. May our speech honor You and deal with issues and not personalities. Grant the Senators Your grace to work this week as the honorable men and women who love You and count it a high privilege to serve as leaders of our beloved Nation. 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.

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, April 22, 2004.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 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. SUNUNU thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning, following leader time, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for up to 60 minutes. The morning business period will be divided. The Republican side will control the first 30 minutes and the Democrat side will control the final 30 minutes.

After morning business, the Senate will begin 60 minutes of debate on the motion to proceed to the asbestos bill. When the 1 hour of debate concludes, the Senate will conduct a rollcall vote on invoking cloture on the motion to proceed to the asbestos bill. We have heard from a number of Senators on this bill in the last couple of days. As the debate has progressed, there have been a number of ongoing discussions which involved our options for moving forward on this important piece of legislation.

At this point, it is difficult to say exactly how the continued negotiations are going to be carried out, but we are going forward with the cloture vote today, and we will continue with discussions and negotiations at the leadership level. If we are unable to invoke cloture and actually begin the asbestos

bill, we will have an agreement to consider the victims' rights bill that was introduced yesterday by Senators KYL, FEINSTEIN, and others. That order provides for up to 2 hours of debate prior to a vote on passage of the bill.

I thank all of the Members who have assisted in bringing that to conclusion. Both the assistant Democratic leader and I mentioned last night that they have done yeomen's work in bringing this legislation to the point it is.

It is bipartisan. I know Senator KYL has been very engaged in this debate. And only through his efforts, working together with the efforts of Senator FEINSTEIN and others, will we be able to finish that bill today.

I will be talking to the Democratic leadership about the schedule for the remaining part of this week and next week as the course of the day goes on.

I know my distinguished colleague from Missouri is here. I would be happy for him to make a statement with regard to our visiting Chaplain today.

So people know, I have about a 4- or 5-minute statement to make before going to morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Missouri.

GUEST CHAPLAIN PHILLIP MCCLENDON

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader and the distinguished minority whip.

I join with my colleagues today in welcoming a good friend to the Senate as guest Chaplain, Dr. Phillip McClendon of Joplin, MO. He is the senior pastor of Calvary Baptist Church where for the past 20 years he has served as a dynamic church and spiritual leader for southwest Missouri, ministering to all with whom he comes in contact, including hospital patients here and on his extensive missions

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



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