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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Sunday, March 20, 2005, at 1 p.m.

Senate

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2005

The Senate met at 6:16 p.m., pursuant to S. Res. 296 of the 108th Congress, and was called to order by the Honorable RICK SANTORUM, a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania.

PRAYER

The Honorable RICK SANTORUM offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we praise You for the constancy and consistency of Your faithfulness in blessing and guiding the Senate of the United States through the years of our Nation's history. We turn to You again today and know that You will be faithful to give the women and men of this Senate exactly what is needed in each hour, each challenge, each decision. Give us light when our vision is dim, courage when we need to be bold, decisiveness when it would be easy to equivocate, and hope when others are tempted to be discouraged. So we commit ourselves to be Your faithful servants, examples of patriotism to our people and crusaders for Your best for our Nation. In Your Holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable RICK SANTORUM 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, March 19, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICK SANTORUM, a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SANTORUM thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

THERESA MARIE SCHIAVO

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the Congress has been working nonstop over the last 3 days to do its part to uphold human dignity and affirm the culture of life. I am pleased to announce that the House and Senate Republican leadership have reached an agreement on a legislative solution. The Senate has come in today to pass an adjournment resolution which we will send shortly to the House of Representatives. Procedurally, this action will have the effect of bringing the House into session so they can either pass compromise legislation by unanimous consent on Sun-

day or place this legislation on the suspension calendar for consideration early Monday morning. The Senate will be prepared to reconvene as soon as the House passes this new legislation.

It has been more than 24 hours since Terri Schiavo's feeding tube was removed. Under the legislation we will soon consider, Terri Schiavo will have another chance. It is a simple bill, only two pages long. It allows Terri's case to be heard in Federal court. More specifically, it allows a Federal district judge to consider a claim "by or on behalf of Theresa Marie Schiavo for the alleged violation of any right of Theresa Marie Schiavo under the Constitution or laws of the United States relating to the withholding or withdrawal of food, fluids, or medical treatment necessary to sustain her life."

I am pleased with our progress thus far, and I am committed as leader to see this legislation pass and give Terri Schiavo one last chance at life.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 841

Mr. FRIST. I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 841) to require States to hold special elections to fill vacancies in the House of Representatives not later than 49 days after the vacancy is announced by the Speaker of the House of Representatives in extraordinary circumstances.

Mr. FRIST. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of

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



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