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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, April 25, 2005, at noon.

## Senate

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2005

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHNNY ISAKSON, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, our Father, You are holy, You are our strength and shield. Let Your presence be felt in our world. Comfort those brought low by sorrow and uncertainty. Lighten the load for those who are burdened beyond their resources. Lift those who are bowed by life's circumstances and sustain those who walk through the valley of shadows. Today, use Your Senators for Your glory. Let Your peace prevail in their hearts. May the work of our lawmakers hasten the day when the nations of the world will live together in dignity and harmony. Teach us creative ways to work for the betterment of humanity. Lord, we will wait for Your mercies in the presence of Your people. We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHNNY ISAKSON 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, 2005.

To the Senate:

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

TED STEVENS,  
President pro tempore.

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

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Utah is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, today we will have a period for morning business to permit Senators to make statements. As announced by the majority leader last night, there will be no rollcall votes during today's session. We hope to begin consideration of the highway bill next week. The majority leader will have more to say on that later. Perhaps we will have information on that schedule by the close of business today.

As a further reminder, there will be no rollcall votes on Monday, which is April 25. On behalf of the leadership, I thank Senator COCHRAN for his work on

the emergency supplemental appropriations bill, which we passed yesterday by a vote of 99 to 0. We will shortly proceed to a conference in order to produce a final product that will be sent to the President.

I thank everyone for their attention this morning, and I yield the floor.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The Chair recognizes the Senator from Colorado.

### JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise this morning to clear up the apparent confusion and misinformation surrounding the confirmation of judicial nominations.

I hope to shed some light on one of our most important obligations and express to the American people the truth about the partisan obstruction of our constitutional duties.

Article II of the Constitution, known as the advice and consent clause, requires Senate approval of judicial nominations. This obligation is only

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



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