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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. 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.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, direct and control our lives. Control our tongues that our words may bring life and not death, clarity and not confusion. Control our hearts that we may hear the cries of the hurting. Control our minds that our thoughts may be illuminated by Your presence. Control our actions, that our deeds may match our creeds.

Today, give each Senator an awareness of Your sovereignty. Remind him or her that the hearts of world leaders are in Your hands, and Your purposes will prevail. Enable us all to walk through this world with our garments unstained by evil. Give us courage, endurance, and serenity to face life with a steadfast hope in You.

Remember those who are now braced for Hurricane Rita. We pray in Your matchless 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 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.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with the

first half of the time under the control of the majority leader or his designee and the second half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, under our order from last night, we will start today's session with a 1-hour period of morning business. At approximately 10:30 this morning, we will return to the Agriculture appropriations bill. We have an agreement in place that first-degree amendments be filed at the desk no later than 4 p.m. today. I hope that there will not be many more amendments filed. We would like to finish this bill this evening, and we will stay in session later into the evening with votes in order to accomplish that, if necessary.

We have several meetings occurring this afternoon, including an all-Senators meeting from 4 to 5 today. Because of these meetings, it is important that we get started early this morning and process as many amendments as possible. Therefore, Senators should be aware that we will be scheduling votes as quickly as we can this morning, in order to make as much progress as possible, and of course we will alert Members as soon as the first vote is ordered.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF JOHN ROBERTS

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise today in support of President Bush's nomination of Judge John Roberts to serve as Chief Justice of the United States.

It would be difficult to identify a jurist better qualified for our Nation's highest Court than Judge John Roberts. He is a distinguished jurist who enjoys broad bipartisan support.

There is good reason for this broad bipartisan support. Judge Roberts' sharp intellect and legal ability are beyond question. In addition, his humility, fairness, and open-minded approach to the practice of law have won him admirers from across the political spectrum.

During his career as a practicing attorney, Judge Roberts argued a variety of positions in a number of high-profile cases and has represented criminal defendants, environmental interests, and the State of Hawaii in a dispute over legislation meant to favor native Hawaiians as a group.

During the 2001 landmark Microsoft antitrust case before the District of Columbia court, he argued on behalf of the Clinton Justice Department and a group of primarily Democratic State attorneys general that several of Microsoft's business practices violated the Sherman Antitrust Act.

In the landmark 2002 environmental case, Tahoe-Sierra Preservation Council v. Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, he successfully argued before the Supreme Court in favor of limits on property development and in support of protection of the Pristine Lake Tahoe Basin area.

Judge Roberts has been described as "one of the top appellate lawyers of his generation" by the Legal Times, and one of the top 10 civil litigators by the National Law Journal in 1999.

Colorado's own Rocky Mountain News offered its unequivocal endorsement of Judge Roberts. The Rocky Mountain News stated that "Roberts is

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



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