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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.

Loving Father, we are thankful for every blessing from Your bounty. Thank You for health and strength, for meaningful work, and for the love of family and friends. We acknowledge that every good and perfect gift comes from You. Forgive us when we have not been faithful in using our time, talent, and tongue.

Lord, open our eyes to creative ways of helping those who live without hope. We offer You today our thoughts, words, and deeds to use in the service of Your kingdom. Send us forth as Your ambassadors of goodwill.

Bless our Senators as they seek to honor You. Keep their thoughts pure, their words true, and their actions honorable.

We pray in Your wonderful 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, leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning we set aside 30 minutes equally di-

vided for morning business. Following that time we will return to the consideration of the lobbying reform bill.

Last night, the Democratic leader proposed an amendment which is the pending business.

The managers will be here shortly, and we expect that we will work out an agreement for a time certain for the vote in relation to that amendment.

Last night, they were also trying to line up some additional amendments for today. We will make as much progress as possible on the bill today. To do that, we are going to need a lot of cooperation from both sides of the aisle.

The managers of the bill are encouraged to work out short time agreements on amendments to provide adequate time to discuss the issues and also allow us to move the bill forward.

If we are able to finish the bill this week, we will need Members who have amendments to notify the managers just as soon as possible so they can be scheduled for debate and vote.

Finally, we will be asking for filing deadlines for all amendments, and we will attempt to lock that in for today.

I thank my colleagues for their attention and for their cooperation on this important bill.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 30 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.

Who seeks time?

The Senator from Colorado.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to comment on the trip that President Bush recently made to my home State of Colo-

rado. The President visited several sites that are involved with furthering renewable energy. One of those sites included the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, or NREL as it is often called, in Golden, CO. Due to previous commitments, I was unable to join the President during his trip, but I want to thank him for visiting there, and thank him for the commitments he has made to the lab and to renewable energy.

NREL is on the cutting edge in bringing renewable energy technologies out of the laboratory and into the mainstream of American business and society. Although America has rivals in many Asian and European nations in investing in the development of these technologies, NREL deserves credit for many wonderful accomplishments.

In recognition of these accomplishments, I have, during my tenure in Congress, led a coalition to push for sufficient funding for both the Department of Energy's renewables budget and NREL. Earmarks have created problems for our national laboratories throughout the United States. The President has addressed the problem, and I am working to prevent this in the future.

The environmental benefits of renewable energy are well noted and widely praised. Not only are renewable sources of energy beneficial to our national security, but they reduce greenhouse gas emissions and decrease demands for other energy resources.

Wind, solar, geothermal, biomass, photovoltaic and other renewable energies have few if any harmful byproducts. It is simply good policy to do all we can to effectively harness and utilize the natural, clean, reusable sources of energy that are abundant all around us.

However we should also be looking at energy efficient technologies. There is a saying that energy saved is like extra

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



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