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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 PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Reverend Francis H. Wade, of St. Alban's Parish in Washington, DC.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us bow our heads before the Lord. Our God and King, You have taught us that those to whom much is given much is required. Open our minds to an awareness of the riches of this good land—its material wealth, its moral heritage, its legacies of courage and generosity. Open our eyes to the treasure that is the people of this land, their hopes and fears, their homes and families, their histories and potential. Open our hearts to the intangibles of justice and peace, dignity and joy, trust and forbearance.

Bless this Senate and all who bear the responsibility of governance with the lively sense of stewardship and accountability so that what You have made precious in this Nation will flourish and be Your resource for the fullness of life for all people of every land. 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 now 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we will start with a 30-minute period of morning business. Therefore, shortly after 10 a.m., we will return to the consideration of the supplemental appropriations bill. We now have approximately 13 amendments pending. One of those has been divided into 18 divisions; therefore, that amendment could require up to 18 votes before we dispose of it.

Needless to say, we will have rollcall votes throughout the day as we work our way through these amendments. At this point, there appears to be an unending flow of amendments and we will gauge our progress at the end of business today. I want Members to have the opportunity to offer amendments, but at some point it may be necessary to file a cloture motion to ensure that we finish this emergency supplemental sometime next week.

In the meantime, I encourage Senators to work with the managers to schedule their amendments, and perhaps there will be an opportunity for some of the votes to be accepted without the need for floor debate or a vote.

I will have a brief statement on another issue, unless the Democratic leader wants to comment on the schedule. We are going to have a busy day. I ask our colleagues to be cooperative. This is a supplemental emergency bill and we need to proceed efficiently—with patience but efficiently.

I wish to comment on another very important issue. We have so many things going on today and over the course of the week, with a focus on energy, with a lot of work being done not on the floor but in committees and in working groups and task forces to address the skyrocketing prices of gasoline. We have a pensions conference report on the way, and a tax increase prevention act conference report is underway.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, there is another issue we have made slow progress on recently that we need to accelerate and that is the judicial nomination process. Throughout my time as leader, I have done my very best to stand on the principle of having fair up-or-down votes for each of the judicial nominees. I believe it is our responsibility, our constitutional duty, grounded in the advice and consent clause of section 2 of the Constitution, and it is reinforced by over 200 years of Senate history; it is a duty we have in the Senate. I compliment the body on the two Justices who were confirmed—a Chief Justice, an associate Justice, and all the district court judges who were confirmed. In the coming weeks, we need to continue building on this progress, as with all the rest of the issues coming before us. We will confirm new nominees to fill vacancies on the Federal bench.

As we all know, we need our courts to have judges who are well-qualified, mainstream judges, who demonstrate the highest integrity, and who will practice judicial restraint and will respect the rule of law and the Constitution.

After consulting with Chairman SPECTER, Senator MCCONNELL, and many of my colleagues, I am pleased to announce that in the coming weeks we will move forward on the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the DC Circuit

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



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