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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 4, 2003, at 4 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2003

The Senate met at 10:02 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for a pro forma session be vitiated.

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

HONORING THE MISSION OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE "COLUMBIA"

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk and ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:
A resolution (S. Res. 41) honoring the mission of the space shuttle *Columbia*.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. It there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 41) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 41

Resolved, That the Senate commemorates with deep sorrow and regret the fate of the

Columbia space shuttle mission and when it adjourns today, it do so as a further mark of respect to the astronauts who lost their lives.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, initially we planned to come in for a pro forma session today and not have further remarks made. But in light of the great national tragedy, a time when all of our thoughts in this body and of all Americans converge on the families and the loved ones of the *Columbia* crew members, both the Democratic leader and I would like to take just a couple minutes to make a statement. Then we will be adjourning at that point.

I join all Americans in expressing our deepest sympathy for the events that have occurred and extend our deepest sympathy to the families of the crew members, and want to take this opportunity to salute the courage of the crew.

The events of 2 days ago have caused all of us to go back and look into both our own lives but also the lives of other great explorers who so willingly have taken the risk with that ultimate goal of making the world a better place. Indeed, the heroes that we all celebrate in terms of their lives, of which we have been reviewing over the last 24 hours, are very much the focus of not just us in this body but, indeed, the world.

Each *Columbia* crew member was a pioneer. They would want us to recognize their sacrifices through our comments and through our review of their lives and through our comforting of their families. But I also know they

would want us to determine the cause of this tragedy, to fix what caused it, and then to move on in that same spirit of exploration.

I, in closing, do extend my own personal sympathy and the sympathy of this body to those families, and to those great pioneers and heroes of the American spirit.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I join the majority leader in expressing, as he has, our heartfelt sympathy to the families of the astronauts, to NASA, to the people of Israel, and to all of those responsible as we contemplate the tragic loss.

There is no way one can adequately express in words the sense of sorrow, of regret that we would like to be able to convey to the families themselves. But as they contemplate these losses, we wish them great strength, strength in knowing that their loved ones committed themselves to a great cause, and, in so doing, created the path to a future that we will continue to celebrate.

Neil Armstrong, when he landed on the moon, made note of that fact that it was: One small step for man, one giant step for mankind. I believe these astronauts made one giant step for mankind—in better relations, in finding ways with which to pursue science so successfully; and, in so doing, it has created their footprints not only in the path once begun by the pioneers, such as Neil Armstrong, but that of future astronauts as well who will carry on

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



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this great experiment in space recognizing its importance to all of mankind.

So as we contemplate this loss, we celebrate their lives, we celebrate their accomplishments, we celebrate the fact that they gave all they could for their country.

At times such as this, the word "hero" is appropriate. Indeed, they were just that; they were and are heroes, role models, committed Americans, patriots, and pioneers.

We thank them. We applaud their accomplishment. And we wish their families Godspeed during this difficult time.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, for the information of our colleagues, arrangements are being made, and we will keep Members notified over the course of the day for opportunities to attend the memorial service in Houston. Each caucus will keep their respective members posted over the course of the day of what those plans are.

We have modified our schedule accordingly. And as I will discuss shortly,

we will be coming in for the opportunity for our Members to make statements on the floor tomorrow afternoon, and then resume the business on Wednesday as we initially planned for Tuesday.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2003

Mr. FRIST. In that regard, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 4 p.m. Tuesday, February 4; I further ask consent that on Tuesday, following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and that there then be a period of morning business until 6 p.m., with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. For the information of Senators, the Senate will reconvene to-

morrow to allow Members to make statements regarding the *Columbia* tragedy. When the Senate concludes its business on Tuesday, it will reconvene on Wednesday morning.

As in executive session, I now ask unanimous consent that the order with respect to the Estrada nomination be changed so that the Senate begins its consideration at 2:15 p.m. on Wednesday.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 4 P.M. TOMORROW

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask, unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the provisions of S. Res. 41.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, the Senate stands adjourned under the previous order as a mark of further respect to the astronauts who lost their lives in the *Columbia* shuttle mission.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10:11 a.m., adjourned until Tuesday, February 4, 2003, at 4 p.m.