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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Here is a promise to give us hope today: ''If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves, and pray and seek my face * * * then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.''—II Chronicles 7:14.

Thank You, Lord, for answering our prayers for a meeting between the President, the majority leader, and the Speaker of the House to deal with the issues of balancing the budget. Now we pray reverently for these men as they meet today. Lord, we need Your healing. Fill these men with Your spirit. Grant them the humility to be open to Your guidance for a solution. Invade their minds with an acute awareness of their accountability to You to break the present deadlock, move toward creative compromises, and achieve an agreement. We claim Jesus' diagnosis and prognosis for seemingly impossible impasses like this: ''With man it is impossible, but with God all things are possible.''—Luke 18:27. We really believe that. We cast aside our pride, and throw our negative cautious doubt to the wind. Today is a day to expect great things from You, and the greatness You will inspire in our leaders. Thank You that it shall be so. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from Indiana is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, let me announce that we will immediately begin consideration of the conference report to accompany the Department of Defense authorization bill, and that under the unanimous-consent agreement reached last night, if all time is used, a vote will occur on the conference report at approximately 5:25 p.m.

The Senate will recess today between the hours of 12:30 p.m. and 2:15 p.m. for weekly policy conferences, and a cloture vote is still possible today on the motion to proceed to the Labor-HHS appropriations bill, unless an agreement can be reached on that bill today.

Also, if a continuing resolution would become available from the House, we will take action on that today.

VITIATION OF ACTION—S. 1228

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the action taken on Calendar No. 280, S. 1228, be vitiated and the bill be placed back on the calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, this bill is now back on the calendar but it is still hoped this important matter can be cleared for action, soon.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order the leadership time is reserved.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1996—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order the Senate will now resume consideration of the conference report accompanying H.R. 1530, on which there shall be 3 hours debate, equally divided.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A conference report to accompany H.R. 1530, an act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1996 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the conference report.

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I know there are speakers who will be here this morning, but at the moment let me suggest the absence of a quorum; the time will be equally divided under the previous agreement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, what is the current order of the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending business is the conference report on H.R. 1530, the Defense authorization.

Mr. NUNN. Mr. President, as we debate the conference report on the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1996, I again want to express my admiration for the hard work, determination, and commitment of Senator THURMOND, the chairman of the committee. Regardless of our individual and differing views on the specifics of this conference report, I believe everyone knows that Senator THURMOND worked with diligence and dedication to reach an agreement with the House.

I also want to express my appreciation for the hard work of the majority staff director, Dick Reynard; deputy staff director, George Lauffer, who 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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