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Senate

(Legislative day of Thursday, March 16, 1995)

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Our prayer this morning will be delivered by our former beloved Chaplain.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, the Reverend Richard C. Halverson, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

In a moment of silence, let us remember Chick Reynolds, from our official reporters office, who is very ill.

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.—Psalm 46:1.

Loving Father, this a place of great power, and powerful people often suffer in silence. They grieve alone, weep alone, confront personal inadequacy alone. Our culture does not permit people of power to admit weakness or vulnerability. We pray for those who may be hurting. Where there is alienation, bring reconciliation; where there is illness, bring healing; if there be a child in trouble, restore that one to the family; where there is financial difficulty, provide out of Thy boundless resources; where there is grief, give comfort.

Dear God, give us grace to be kind to one another. Help us to be sensitive and caring. Let Thy love be shed abroad and Thy peace rule in our hearts. In the name of Him who was love incarnate. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, this morning, the leader time has been reserved and the Senate will immediately resume consideration of S. 4, the line-item veto bill. In accordance

with the consent agreement reached last night, the cloture vote on the majority leader's substitute amendment to S. 4 will occur at 6 p.m. this evening. All Senators should be aware that there are several pending amendments to the substitute. Therefore, rollcall votes may occur throughout the day today.

Also, the majority leader has indicated that a late night session can be expected in order to complete action on the line-item veto bill this week.

LINE-ITEM VETO

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, under the order, the freshmen have an hour reserved this morning to talk about the line-item veto. I am happy to join in that.

The first to present views will be the president of the class, the Senator from Oklahoma.

I yield him as much time as he may consume.

Mr. INHOFE. I thank the Senator from Wyoming for yielding this time on this very significant subject.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished Senator from Oklahoma is recognized.

Mr. INHOFE. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I have been listening attentively to the discussion that has been taking place in the Chamber on the line-item veto. I think there may be some misconceptions floating around as to who really wants a line-item veto and how much they want it, and who perhaps does not want it.

I have heard over and over again, as I was sitting in the chair where the President pro tempore is presiding, Senators standing up and saying, "Our President, President Clinton, wants the line-item veto. We need to give it to him so he will have the ability to veto

those items and spending bills that are out of line."

I suggest that, even though the President has made the statement, "I want a strong line-item veto bill and I want it very soon," that that is the same thing he said about a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. And we were to find out later that he was the one who led the opposition to the balanced budget amendment on the telephone, lobbying those Democrats who had previously committed themselves to a balanced budget amendment. I suggest this may even be happening today.

The reason I say that, Mr. President, is not to make an attack on President Clinton or to question anything that he has said. But the idea of the President having the ability to use this new device, a line-item veto, to take top spending things, pork items, out of a bill does not seem to make any sense to me.

If you look back to 1993, when President Clinton came up with his budget and tax hike, it was characterized by many people, including PATRICK MOYNIHAN, as the largest tax increase in the history of public finance or any place in the world. It was a \$267 billion tax increase, with all kinds of spending increases. The taxes went back retroactively to January of 1993, and that is the first time I can remember that happening. It increased the top rate to 36 percent. Then it went in and started taxing Social Security recipients.

Now, this was kind of interesting because in arguing against the balanced budget amendment, they were trying to use Social Security as the argument against the balanced budget amendment when in fact this President in 1993 increased dramatically the taxes on Americans' Social Security. Of course, it was not a good argument anyway, because if we do not do something to get the budget under control,

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



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