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Senate

(Legislative day of Tuesday, October 10, 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].

PRAYER

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

A voice from the past calls us to make our work this day an expression of our faith. In 1780, Samuel Adams said, "If you carefully fulfill the various duties of life, from a principle of obedience to your heavenly Father, you will enjoy that peace which the world cannot give nor take away." Let us pray:

Gracious Father, we seek to be obedient to You as we fulfill the sacred duties of this Senate today. May the Senators and all who assist them see the work of this day as an opportunity to glorify You by serving our country. We renew our commitment to excellence in all that we do. Our desire is to know and do Your will. Grant us a profound experience of Your peace, true serenity in our souls, that comes from complete trust in You and dependence on Your guidance. Free us of anything that would distract us or disturb us as we give ourselves to the tasks and challenges today. In the Lord's name. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, this morning there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 11 a.m. today. At 11, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 927, the Cuba sanctions bill. A cloture motion was filed on the substitute amendment

to that bill yesterday, and if an agreement can be reached it is possible that the cloture vote could occur as early as this evening.

All Senators are reminded that, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII, all first-degree amendments to the substitute must be filed by 1 p.m. today.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMPSON). Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

Under the previous order, the Senator from Utah [Mr. HATCH] is recognized to speak for up to 30 minutes.

REVITALIZING AMERICA'S DRUG CONTROL EFFORTS

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, it is time to speak plainly. To borrow a phrase, President Clinton has been AWOL—absent without leadership—on the drug issue. Our country is badly hurt by his abdication of responsibility. This is the opinion of both liberals and conservatives, Republicans and Democrats.

A little more than 1 year ago, President Clinton signed into law the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994. In doing so he stated that "this is the beginning, not the end, of our effort to restore safety and security to the people of our country."

To commemorate the 1-year anniversary of that measure's enactment, the Clinton administration held several days of media events.

Unfortunately, while President Clinton and his aides were celebrating the year-old crime bill, HHS announced that teen drug use almost doubled over the past 2 years. Just as Nero fiddled

while Rome burned, the Clinton administration holds media events while seemingly ignoring the evidence of a worsening drug crisis.

Let me take you back a few years, to 1992. As a candidate for President, then Mr. Clinton talked tough on drugs, declaring that "President Bush hasn't fought a real war on crime and drugs * * * [and] I will."

On the link between drugs and crime, candidate Clinton said "We have a national problem on our hands that requires a tough national response," as reported in the New York Times, March 26, 1993, referring to previous Clinton statements.

Since the campaign, however, President Clinton has rarely mentioned the drug issue in a substantive way. He has not made the drug issue a visible crusade. He simply has not led this country against the scourge that is killing our children.

Not so long ago, Nancy Reagan led the "Just Say No" campaign. That was just one demonstration of committed leadership at the national level. Today, we hear virtually nothing from the White House. We need a campaign to get the President to "Just Say Something"—and say it loudly and consistently.

Through the 1980's and into the early 1990's we saw dramatic reductions in casual drug use—reductions that were won through increased penalties, strong Presidential leadership, and a clear national antidrug message.

Casual drug use dropped by more than half between 1977 and 1992 according to the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse.

Casual cocaine use fell by 79 percent, while monthly cocaine use fell from 2.9 million users in 1988 to 1.3 million in 1992, again, from the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse. Imagine if we had had a 79-percent reduction in teen pregnancy, or AIDS transmission.

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



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