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Senate

The Senate met at 10 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:

In the 13th century, Richard of Chichester prayed:

"Day by day, dear Lord, of Thee three things I pray:

"To see Thee more clearly,

"To love Thee more dearly,

"To follow Thee more nearly."

This is our longing for this new day, dear God. Help us to see You in the beauty of the world around us, in the never to be repeated miracles of Your grace, in the people of our lives, and in Your providential care in timely interventions to help us in the circumstances of life. Yes Lord, we do want to see You more clearly.

We love You not just for what You do for us, but most of all, for who You are. Your loving kindness, mercy, and faithfulness are our stability in a world of change. You are our help when we are helpless, our hope when we are tired in body and troubled in mind. Yes Lord, we do want to love You more dearly.

We hear Your summons to follow You sounding in our souls. We commit ourselves to walk humbly with You through this day. May we neither run ahead of You or lag behind, but keep pace with You. Help us to know what You desire and give us the strength to do what love requires. Yes Lord, we do want to follow You more nearly. In the name of Jesus, amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Mr. DOLE, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, for the information of all of my colleagues, we have morning business until 2 p.m. today with Senators to speak for up to 5 minutes each, except for the following: Senator DASCHLE, or his designee, 60 minutes; and Senator THOMAS for 60 minutes.

It is possible that the VA-HUD conference report will arrive from the House today. If that should happen, we will take that up today. Therefore, rollcall votes are possible during today's session.

As my colleagues know, the budget negotiations are underway. They start at 11 o'clock in the morning, and they meet again in the afternoon. So that will be an ongoing process, and I assume for the next 8 to 10 days.

If we can complete action on VA-HUD and send that to the White House, that would still leave five appropriations bills that have not been acted upon.

I am hoping the President will sign the Defense appropriations bill today. If not, it will become law, which will occur at 12 midnight today. It is a very important bill, and particularly important in view of the President's plan to deploy 20,000 American troops in Bosnia because it contains money for that purpose. It is my hope that the President will sign the bill.

(Mr. FRIST assumed the chair)

RECESS

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I move that the Senate stand in recess until 11 a.m.

The motion was agreed to, and, the Senate, at 10:04 a.m., recessed until 11 a.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer [Mr. CAMPBELL].

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 2 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

The Chair, in his capacity as a Senator from the State of Colorado, suggests the absence of a quorum.

The clerk will call the roll. The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator has 1 hour.

FRESHMAN FOCUS

Mr. THOMAS. Thank you, Mr. President. I do not intend to take the hour.

We did set aside some time, however, and I hope to be joined later by some of my colleagues from the freshman class who have sought to come to the floor from time to time to talk a bit about what, in our view at least, our collective view, we are seeking to do during this session of Congress. What we have sought to do, of course, along with the other Senators in this body, throughout this year, is to make some substantial changes.

I think those of us who have just come this year perhaps feel more strongly about making changes, more strongly because we are not as wedded to the operations that have gone on here for 30 years as some may be. I think we are probably more sensitive to voters, having just come fairly recently off an election, an election in

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



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