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Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 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:

Sovereign Lord, You have given us minds to think magnificently about You. We contemplate Your majesty, power, goodness, truth, faithfulness, and grace. Everything within us responds to praise You for the wonderful way You care for us and provide for our needs.

We commit our thinking brains to You. We accept the admonition of Scripture: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."—Romans 12:2. Consciously we seek to serve You by allowing You to deepen our understanding. Help us to base our thinking on Your truth, values, and priorities. May we come to know You so well that Your will is made clear for each decision. Be on our minds, in our minds, and in control of our minds.

In the name of Jesus who taught us to love You with our minds. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, Senator LOTT of Mississippi, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President. The Senate will immediately begin consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution 57, the concurrent budget resolution. Under the agreement of last week, there are a limited number of first-degree amendments in order to the resolution. Senators are urged to

offer and debate those today. Senators are reminded there will be no rollcall votes today. Any votes ordered on amendments will occur on Tuesday, and Senators can expect numerous votes Tuesday in order to complete action on the budget resolution.

I know that the managers of the bill will be here shortly. I might point out that there has already been an order of amendments agreed to. Shortly, we will begin with the first of those amendments, I believe by the Senator from Missouri, Senator ASHCROFT, regarding the payroll tax cut, to be followed by an amendment by Senator HARKIN, and so on down the line.

I note that the last thing scheduled today, to begin on or before, I guess, 7 p.m., is the Chafee-Breaux so-called bipartisan amendment. I believe there will be considerable amount of time devoted to that particular amendment—3 hours being reserved for tonight.

So I wanted to make Senators aware that there is a list of amendments. An order has been agreed to, and we will be prepared to begin with those shortly. I know the majority leader, Senator DOLE, is very anxious for us to work very hard in debating these amendments so that we can complete action as soon as possible this week.

We do have other very important legislation pending that we are anxious to have considered. Senator DOLE's bill dealing with the national missile defense, Defend America Act, we are trying to work out an agreement on how that will be brought up and considered.

I know the distinguished President pro tempore, the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, is anxious for the defense authorization bill to be considered, hopefully this week, so that we can have a conference between the House and Senate this year early in June, rather than later on in the summer, which would cause problems in trying to get the authorization done at

the same time trying to get the appropriations bill done.

So we have a lot of work to do in a limited amount of time before we go out for the Memorial Day recess period.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. 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. LOTT. Mr. President, I believe we need to report the resolution so that further action can be taken.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume consideration of Senate Concurrent Resolution 57, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 57) setting forth the congressional budget for the U.S. Government for fiscal years 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002.

The Senate resumed consideration of the concurrent resolution.

Pending:

Boxer amendment No. 3982, to preserve, protect, and strengthen the Medicaid program by controlling costs, providing State flexibility, and restoring critical standards and protections, including coverage for all populations covered under current law, to restore \$18 billion in excessive cuts, offset by corporate and business tax reforms, and to express the sense of the Senate regarding certain Medicaid reforms.

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



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