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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:

God who gave us life, gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when you remove the conviction that these liberties are a gift of God?

Dear God, we open this Senate with a resounding response to Thomas Jefferson's pointed question. We reaffirm our conviction that we are one Nation under Your sovereign authority.

You were the inspiration of our Constitution that makes our Nation distinctly different and the author of the liberties that distinguish our democracy. May our gratitude for these liberties stir up our patriotism and strengthen our leadership. Our motto, "In God We Trust," is more than a shibboleth; it exposes our deepest commitment to trust You to guide us as we seek to confront the problems of our secularized society with Your solutions, Your absolutes in a culture that relies on relativism. We ask You to begin a spiritual awakening in our land and begin with us. In the name of our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader is recognized. Mr. LOTT. I thank the Chair.

THANKING THE CHAPLAIN

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, again we thank our Chaplain for his words of wisdom in his morning prayer.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Today there will be a period for morning business until 12 o'clock noon, with Senators to speak

for up to 5 minutes each, with the following exceptions: Senator GRASSLEY for 60 minutes—and I see he is here and prepared to proceed—Senator FEINSTEIN for 30 minutes, and Senator DASCHLE 30 minutes.

At 12 noon today, following morning business, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Madeleine Albright to be Secretary of State. Under the order that has been agreed to, there will be 2 hours and 10 minutes for debate on the nomination, with the vote to occur at the conclusion or yielding back of the debate time.

So I presume that will be around 10 minutes after 2 or so. It is my hope that some of that debate time will be yielded back so the Senate may vote on the nomination early enough to accommodate our colleagues who wish to attend the wake of former Senator Paul Tsongas.

Following the vote on the Albright nomination, I expect an additional period of morning business to allow Senators to introduce legislation they have been working on or perhaps to make comments on bills that were introduced yesterday.

Finally, I will announce that, if available later this week, the Senate may consider the nomination of our former colleague, Senator Bill Cohen, to be Secretary of Defense. We are not sure exactly how that will proceed. The committee is scheduled to have a hearing today. We are looking at the possibility of whether or not it could be taken up either later today or, if not today, then late tomorrow after our delegation returns from Massachusetts.

I had indicated to the President our desire to cooperate with him in getting his foreign policy and defense Cabinet nominees in place as soon as possible. So I would really like to see us get that done this week. I know there will be support for that on both sides of the aisle.

Therefore, additional rollcall votes may occur today or this week and

Members will be notified accordingly. I think at this point there does not appear to be a necessity for us to have votes on Friday, although I am not making that commitment yet. Just be prepared to have more votes possibly today and tomorrow, on Thursday.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWNBACK). Under the previous order, the 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 12 noon with Senators permitted to speak therein for not to exceed 5 minutes. Again, under the previous order, the Senator from Iowa [Mr. GRASSLEY] is recognized to speak for up to 60 minutes.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I yield from my time the Senator from Texas 5 minutes for her to use any way she wants. I thank her for being one of the 54 cosponsors of the legislation I am going to speak on and introducing this morning.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas is recognized.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I thank the Chair. I thank the Senator from Iowa for allowing me to introduce two more bills and also thank him for his leadership on the bill that he will talk about later to give some much needed and appropriate relief for the farm families of our country.

Mr. President, I send a bill to the desk and ask that it be referred to the appropriate committee.

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



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