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## Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

### PRAYER

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

Gracious God, You have promised that "In quietness and confidence shall be our strength."—Isaiah 30:15.

Thank You for prayer in which we can commune with You, renew our convictions, receive fresh courage, and reaffirm our commitment to serve You. Here we can escape the noise of demanding voices and pressured conversation. With You there are no speeches to give, positions to defend, party loyalties to push, or acceptance to earn. In Your presence we can simply be and know that we are loved. You love us in spite of our mistakes and give us new beginnings each day. Thank You that we can depend upon Your guidance in all that is ahead of us. Suddenly we realize that this quiet moment has refreshed us. We are replenished with new hope.

Now we can return to our outer world of challenges and opportunities with greater determination to keep our priorities straight. We want to serve You by giving You our very best to the leadership of our Nation to which You have called 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.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Today, under a previous order, a number of Senators are scheduled to speak in morning business. At 3 p.m., following the allotted morning business, the Senate will begin consideration of Senate Resolution 39, the Governmental Affairs Committee funding resolution, which was reported out of the Rules Committee last Thursday.

As I announced on Thursday, there will be no rollcall votes today during our session, and any votes ordered today will occur on Tuesday, either early in the morning or, more than likely, after the party conference and caucus lunches. I will be continuing discussions with the Democratic leader in the hope of reaching an agreement on the resolution which would allow us to complete action early this week.

In addition, it is possible the Senate will consider the Peña nomination this week. I will notify Senators as to when that nomination is scheduled and when a vote will occur. But I presume that vote would probably not occur before late Wednesday, or Thursday more than likely.

Also, there is a likelihood this week that the Senate will consider the Hollings resolution relating to a constitutional amendment regarding campaign reform.

I thank all Senators for their attention. I suggest the absence of a quorum, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SESSIONS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 the hour of 3 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for not to exceed 5 minutes each.

The Senator from California is recognized to speak for up to 2 hours.

### STATE DEPARTMENT EXPLANATION OF MEXICO'S CERTIFICATION

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, Senator COVERDELL may well come to the floor during this period. I hope he does. I will be happy to defer, and yield parts of my time to him as well.

Mr. President, 1 week ago I joined with Senator COVERDELL and Senator HELMS to introduce resolutions of disapproval, to overturn the President's decision to certify Mexico for antidrug cooperation.

Last week I went home and I read the State Department's Statement of Explanation, which is just 1½ pages.

I must say, I read this document with disbelief. At best, this document—which purports to make the case for Mexico's certification—is a fairy tale. At worst, it is a complete whitewash. Today, I would like to take some time and go over parts of it, and indicate my thoughts on some of the subjects mentioned and refute some of the claims.

Let me begin by saying that section 490 of the Foreign Assistance Act requires the President to certify that Mexico has "cooperated fully with the United States, or taken adequate steps on its own" to combat drug trafficking. Despite the best intentions of President Zedillo and the best efforts of the State Department to put a pretty face on the situation, the Department's Statement of Explanation, I believe, defies credibility.

The State Department claims that "The Government of Mexico's 1996 counterdrug effort produced encouraging results and notable progress in bilateral cooperation." The facts tell a different story.

Let me begin with drug seizures:

The State Department's Statement of Explanation indicates that "Drug seizures and arrests increased in 1996."

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



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