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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 3, 1997, at 12 noon.

Senate

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1997

The Senate met at 11 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:

Eternal God, Creator of heaven and Earth, and Lord of our lives, our hearts are profoundly moved by the recent and acute reminder of the shortness of time and the length of eternity. We have been stunned by the untimely and tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales. We join with all Americans in expressing profound sympathy to the British people, and the royal family, and poignant empathy for her sons, Prince William and Prince Harry. Comfort and strengthen them in their grief. We thank you for the all too brief life of Princess Diana, for her humanitarian efforts to care for crucial causes and human suffering.

And so Lord, we begin the next phase of the work of this Senate with a sense of our own mortality and the urgency of living life to Your glory each day. Help us to come to know You and love You so that we may serve You to the fullest and do those things which will have a lasting impact on our Nation and the world. We pray with the psalmist, "So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart with wisdom"—Psalm 90:12. Through our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished majority leader is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President, and welcome back. I am glad that the

Senate is back in session, and I am pleased to see you back in the chair, as is always the case.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today, the Senate will be returning from the August recess and will begin immediate consideration of S. 1061, the Labor-HHS appropriations bill. The chairman of the subcommittee, Senator SPECTER, is here and is ready to go with the opening debate. As announced prior to the recess, there will be no rollcall votes during today's session. Members will be offering amendments, hopefully, to the bill. Today, however, any votes ordered on those amendments will occur during Wednesday's session.

Also under the order, at 2:15 p.m. today, the Senate will resume consideration of the Agriculture appropriations bill to allow Senator HARKIN to offer an amendment regarding the FDA. A rollcall vote will occur on or in relation to Senator HARKIN's amendment at approximately 9:50 on Wednesday morning, tomorrow morning.

I remind my colleagues, in addition to the Labor-HHS appropriations bill this week the Senate needs to consider and complete action on the Interior appropriations bill as well as the Food and Drug Administration reform bill. If there is difficulty continuing with the FDA reform, it would be my intent to file a cloture motion tomorrow, which would then ripen on Friday morning, and unless some agreement can be worked out we would have to have that vote on Friday morning.

Therefore, after today's session, votes will be occurring each day. The chairman just indicated to me he

would hope to finish the Labor-HHS bill tomorrow night, but we will stay on the bill and get it completed except for the one vote at 9:50 on Wednesday, and of course, if we have to go to FDA reform—we can complete the bill, although I hope it can be completed by the time we get to FDA.

I urge Senators that are back in town that have amendments to the Labor-HHS appropriations bill to please come to the floor, offer those amendments today, so that you can have them debated now and not get under a time pressure late tomorrow afternoon or tomorrow night or whenever we get to the close of the debate. I think you get a lot better consideration of amendments if you come and offer them early rather than later.

I want to thank all Senators for their past and hopefully continued cooperation during the remainder of the first session of the 105th Congress. As all Members are aware, as we approach adjournment at the end of this legislative session it will be very busy and will necessitate everyone working with the leaders as we try to complete the remaining schedules. We have not had an opportunity to meet with the leadership and to talk with the leadership on the Democratic side of the aisle about exactly when our target adjournment will be, but during the remainder of the week we will be doing so. Later on this week, to early next week, we will give Senators some idea of our hoped for adjournment.

I do want to say again how much I appreciate the cooperation that we have had this year. We did complete the Balanced Budget Act and the tax

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



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