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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 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:

Lord of all life, You have given us the hours of this day to work for Your glory by serving our Nation. Remind us that there is enough time today to do what You want us to accomplish. Release us from that rushed feeling when we overload the agenda with things which You may not have intended that we cram into today. Help us to live on Your timing. Grant us serenity when we feel irritated by trifling annoyances, by temporary frustration, by little things to which we must give time and attention. May we do what the moment demands with a heart of readiness. Give us the courage to carve out time for quiet thought and creative planning to focus our attention on the big things, on those important things that we must decide and eventually vote on with a decisive vote. Help us to be silent, to wait on You, to receive Your guidance. May the people we serve and those with whom we work sense that, in the midst of the strain and stress of political life, we have had our minds replenished by listening to You. In the name of our Lord. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, the distinguished Senator from Washington State is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will immediately resume consideration of H.R. 2646, the Coverdell A+ education bill. Under the

previous order, this Senator will be recognized at 9:30 a.m. to offer an amendment with respect to block grants. Members who have remaining amendments to the Coverdell bill are encouraged to come to the floor to offer and debate those amendments. Senators are reminded that any votes ordered this morning with respect to pending amendments will be stacked to occur at approximately 3 p.m. Further votes will occur throughout today's session as we attempt to complete action on this important piece of legislation.

Mr. President, this is the message from the majority leader, and I want to emphasize the last point. It is his intention that we finish all amendments and debate on final passage of this bill before the end of the session today. So those who have amendments should come to the floor and offer them in order, after the debate on my own is complete.

Now, Mr. President, I ask recognition in order to present an amendment.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALLARD). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

EDUCATION SAVINGS ACT FOR PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 2646, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2646) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow tax-free expenditures from education individual retirement accounts for elementary and secondary school expenses, to increase the maximum annual amount of contributions to such accounts, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from Washington, Mr. GORTON, is recognized to offer an amendment regarding block grants, on which there shall be 30 minutes equally divided.

The Senator from Washington.

AMENDMENT NO. 2293

(Purpose: To provide for direct awards of education funding)

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Washington [Mr. GORTON], for himself, Mr. FRIST, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. MACK, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. HELMS, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. NICKLES and Mr. CRAIG, proposes an amendment numbered 2293.

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(The text of the amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Amendments Submitted.")

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, I ask the following Senators be listed as original cosponsors of the amendment: Senator FRIST, Senator HAGEL, Senator MACK, Senator COVERDELL, Senator HELMS, Senator BOB SMITH, Senator DOMENICI, Senator NICKLES, and Senator CRAIG.

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

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, last fall during the debate of the Labor, Education appropriations bill, I introduced an amendment to consolidate more than a dozen Federal aid programs for education from kindergarten through 12th grade into a single block grant, with the block grant going to each individual school district across the United States. The amendment had

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



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