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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:

Sovereign God, and ultimate Ruler of this Nation and the One to whom we are accountable, we join with millions of Americans across this land in humble repentance on this National Day of Prayer. We know that repentance is confessing our need and returning to You. In so many ways, we have drifted from You, Holy Father. Forgive us when we neglect our spiritual heritage as a Nation. Help us when we become dulled in our accountability to You and the moral absolutes of Your commandments. Without absolute righteousness, morality, honesty, integrity, and faithfulness, our society operates in frivolous situational ethics, while the prosperity of our time camouflages the poverty in the soul of our Nation.

May this day of prayer be the beginning of a great spiritual awakening. Bring us to the realization that all we have and are is Your gift. Draw us back into a relationship of grateful trust in You that will make our motto, "In God We Trust," more than a slogan, but the profound expression of our dependence on You to guide and bless this Nation. We confess our false pride and express our full praise. Today, we renew our commitment to You as Lord of this land and of our personal lives. Hear the urgent prayers of Your people and bring us back home to Your heart where we belong. Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the Senate will resume consideration of the Thompson-Sessions amendment to H.R. 2676, the IRS reform and restructuring bill. Under the previous order, the time between approximately 9:30 and 10 a.m. will be equally divided for debate on the amendment. At the conclusion or yielding back of the time, the Senate will proceed to vote on or in relation to the Thompson-Sessions amendment. I repeat, that will be around 10 o'clock, maybe slightly after. Or, of course, some time could be yielded back.

As a reminder, we have reached an agreement limiting amendments to the bill. However, there are almost 50 amendments on the list. I had hoped maybe there would be a dozen. I assume, even though some of these, or most of them, would qualify as relevant amendments, Senators will decide that they can offer them on some other legislation or some of them, hopefully, will be accepted after working with the managers of the legislation. I hope those who do want to offer amendments will come forward and do that this morning.

We need to begin to get a lineup of which amendments will be debated and voted on and a time that will be used. I see no need to debate these amendments for 2 or 3 hours. Most of them we ought to talk about 30 or 40 minutes and have a vote, because a lot of work has already been done on this legislation. We have two or three contentious issues we need to flesh out and have a debate and vote on, but even those amendments I don't think are going to be critical at this point if either side wins. We still can work further on this once we get to conference, even though I hope the conference will be short. I think it is incumbent upon the Congress to complete this legislation before we go home—I mean in its entirety—for the Memorial Day recess.

We need the cooperation of all Senators in order to complete action on

this important bill today, and we all have assumed it will be done today. It should be done today. We don't need to, and should not, drag it over until next week because if it does it will bump everything else. We have high tech, crop insurance, and Department of State authorization, just next week. Higher education is pending out there. We need to act on that.

There will be a lot of work during the next 10 days to see if we can get an understanding of how to proceed, if we are going to proceed, on the tobacco bill. We need to get this done. For those who think I am huffing and puffing here, we can replicate last Thursday night if the Members want to. We can be sitting right here at 11 o'clock finishing up this bill or we can get going. Progress was made yesterday because we got an agreement to limit amendments, but I didn't feel the sense of urgency.

So I say to the managers of the legislation, let's get going. Let's get the amendments racked up and be prepared to tell Senators that if they are not going to come to the floor and offer their amendments they will be shoved off at the end and they will get 5 minutes or 2 minutes to describe their amendments.

Again, we don't want to stifle the Senate being able to work its will, but I think we have to be reasonable and be prepared to complete our work.

I thank my colleagues for their attention. I yield the floor.

### UNANIMOUS-CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 1502

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent Senator COATS be permitted to sign S. 1502 as Acting President pro tempore.

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

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



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