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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:

Almighty God, who calls strategic leaders to shape history, we pray for the women and men of this Senate. As we begin a new week, may they feel awe and wonder that You have chosen them through the voice of Your people. May they live humbly on the knees of their hearts, honestly admitting their human inadequacy and gratefully acknowledging Your power. Dwell in the secret places of their hearts to give them inner peace and security. Help them in their offices, with their staffs, in committee meetings, and when they are here together in this sacred, historic Chamber. Reveal Yourself to them. Be the unseen Friend beside them in every changing circumstance. Give them a fresh experience of Your palpable and powerful Spirit. Banish weariness and worry, discouragement and disillusionment. Today, may we often hear Your voice saying, "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."—Matt. 11:28. Lord, help us to rest in You and receive the incredible resiliency You provide. Thank You in advance for a truly productive week. In the Name of our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader is recognized.

Mr. THOMAS. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEDULE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, this morn-

ing the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 2:30 p.m. Following morning business, the Senate will attempt to enter into several time agreements with respect to the high-tech legislation. At approximately 3 p.m., the Senate will consider the agricultural research conference report, and later this afternoon begin consideration of the missile defense bill.

As a reminder, no votes will occur during today's session, and any votes ordered today will be postponed to occur on Tuesday, at approximately 12 noon. Also, on Tuesday the Senate will attempt to reach a time agreement on the D'Amato breast cancer bill and may also consider the charitable contributions bill. During the latter part of the week, the Senate may also consider DOD authorization. I thank my colleagues for their attention.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business.

FAA'S ACTIONS ON BOEING 737'S

Mr. FORD. Mr. President, today, I want to take a few minutes to speak on the latest actions by the Federal Aviation Administration with respect to its emergency inspection order of Boeing 737's.

Last Thursday, May 7th, the FAA issued an airworthiness directive which

ordered the inspection and possible replacement of fuel tank wiring insulation in certain Boeing 737's, 747's and 767's. The FAA order for 737's required immediate action on an estimated 152 U.S. registered Boeing 737-100 and -200 models with more than 50,000 hours of flying time. A second directive also ordered the operators of 264 Boeing 747's and 231 Boeing 767's to inspect wiring within 60 days.

Yesterday, Sunday May 10th, the FAA ordered the immediate inspection for all older Boeing 737's with between 40,000 and 50,000 flight hours. The FAA ordered that the aircraft could not be operated in commercial service until mechanics could inspect, and repair, if needed, the fuel tank wiring. The FAA's action on Sunday came about after initial inspections by the airlines found additional evidence of electrical problems in the fuel tank wires.

There is no question that the FAA's actions inconvenienced a number of travelers yesterday. The decision by the FAA to issue the emergency order was a tough call, but it was the right call to make. It also demonstrates the FAA's continuing commitment to safety.

As Administrator Garvey said "Safety is our highest transportation priority". Her actions and words are to be commended. I wanted to come to the floor to recognize the actions of FAA Administrator Garvey. She and her staff acted quickly and decisively. Many of us around here have often taken to the floor to say that the FAA's first priority should be safety. And the actions taken by Administrator Garvey are a clear demonstration to all of us that the FAA is vigilant in improving safety within the aviation industry. The actions are also clear evidence of a change in the culture of the FAA—that the agency is proactive in enforcing safety standards.

We should also acknowledge the actions taken by the airlines and the

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



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