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Senate

The Senate met at 9:15 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today we have a guest Chaplain, the Reverend Dr. Richard Foth, Falls Church, VA. We are pleased to have you with us.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, the Reverend Dr. Richard Foth, Falls Church, VA, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Father, we come to You on this warm summer morning absolutely dependent on Your wisdom and Your grace. We know that our friends in the Senate have the people of this great Nation on their hearts. And, although they may not, in their own wisdom, know what is best in every instance for each citizen, You do.

So, we ask You to help this deliberative body of chosen and able men and women to keep pursuing matters of State in fresh ways, that all the people of our great land who depend on them might be the better for it.

Our Senators come to this Chamber, pressured almost beyond belief by interests of every kind. Give them, we pray, the insight to be able to differentiate between what is good and what is best. And as they do, thank You for helping them manage their personal and family concerns, while trying to focus on the matters at hand.

As the heat of this late July day is reflected in the heat of debates driven by deadline, let cool heads prevail. And, as the important task of monetary appropriations is considered, we take a moment to remember that You, too, have appropriated something for each of us: Your love and Your grace. In that Name above all names, we thank You for these things. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, good morning.

SCHEDULE

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, this morning, the Senate will immediately proceed to a rollcall vote on passage of the transportation appropriations bill. Following that vote, the Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 1151, the credit union legislation. Any votes ordered today with respect to the credit union bill, or any other legislative or executive items, will be postponed, to occur on Monday, July 27, at a time to be determined by the two leaders. As always, Members will be notified when Monday's voting schedule becomes available.

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

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of the Department of Transportation appropriations bill, S. 2307, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2307) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, the Senate's Transportation Appropriations bill for fiscal year 1999 which the Senate will approve today is of vital importance to the state of New Jersey.

As the most densely populated state in the nation, efficient and effective transportation is critical to the economic well being of my state, as well as to the quality of life of its residents.

The Senate's transportation appropriations bill provides over \$900 million in transportation investments to my state. In addition, New Jersey will receive tremendous benefits from investments in Amtrak services, in the William J. Hughes FAA Technical Center in Pomona, in the U.S. Coast Guard training center in Cape May, the Coast Guard air station in Pomona, and in the airports in our state, particularly Newark International Airport. This investment provides good paying jobs in the short-term, and in the long-term, it will create and maintain the infrastructure that New Jersey needs to attract and keep a strong workforce. Ultimately, these investments will serve to reduce congestion, improve air quality, and enhance New Jerseyans' quality of life.

Mr. President, I would like to highlight some of the important provisions in the Senate's bill which I was able to secure for the Garden State.

Transit is an intricate part of Northern New Jersey's transportation plan. The single largest component of New Jersey's mass transit initiatives is the Urban Core. I was pleased to secure \$70 million that will go toward additional design and construction of the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail link. This rail line will reduce congestion and increase mobility, and will spur economic development in the communities along the Hudson County waterfront and into Bergen County. It will improve air quality, and provide needed construction, operation and maintenance jobs.

In addition, the \$12 million that is provided for the Newark-Elizabeth Rail Link is the first significant infusion of federal dollars that will seriously initiate this project. This mass transit

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



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