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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:

Dear Father, Sovereign of our Nation, our Help in ages past and our Hope for years to come, we praise You for the gift of prayer. You have given us prayer to share with You what is on our minds and hearts and to listen for Your guidance.

Holy God, heal our land at this crucial time. Help all of us to examine our own lives and renew our commitment to integrity and moral purity. Bring America back to You. Beginning with each of us, ignite a spiritual renewal that sweeps across our land. You are a God of judgment and grace.

Be with the President. Enable Your healing reconciliation in his marriage and family. Guide the Members of Congress charged with the responsibility of seeking what is best for our Nation in this crisis. Lead and inspire them as they seek to know and do Your will. We commit these decisive days to Your care. Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader, the able Senator from Utah, is recognized.

Mr. HATCH. Thank you, Mr. President.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, this morning there will be 30 minutes of debate prior to a rollcall vote on a motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to the child custody protection legislation. If cloture is not invoked and if an agreement has not been

reached with respect to the bankruptcy bill, there will be an additional 30 minutes of debate prior to a cloture vote on the Grassley substitute to the bankruptcy bill. If cloture is not invoked on that measure, it is expected that the Senate will resume consideration of the Interior appropriations bill.

Members are encouraged to come to the floor to offer and debate amendments to the Interior bill in an effort to make progress on this important legislation. Therefore, Members should expect rollcall votes throughout today's session, with the first vote occurring at 10 a.m. As a final reminder, Members have until 10 a.m. to file second-degree amendments to the bankruptcy bill.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

### CHILD CUSTODY PROTECTION ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 10 a.m. is equally divided between the Senator from Michigan, Mr. ABRAHAM, and the Senator from Vermont, Mr. LEAHY, or their designee.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, time is very limited this morning, so I will be brief.

We are voting shortly on cloture on a Motion to Proceed. In other words, Senators will be deciding whether or not we can simply consider this important measure.

We all know how contentious the issue of abortion can get around here, and across the country. But this matter is not really even about abortion. This bill is simply about protecting the health and safety of minor children and the rights that their own states have concluded their parents should have. Specifically, it simply seeks to enforce

state laws requiring parental involvement in their minor daughter's abortion so that someone other than those parents cannot readily avoid those state laws by taking a young girl across state lines for an abortion, certainly not without the notification to their parents.

But whether my colleagues agree or disagree with this bill, or whether, like the Clinton administration, that want to modify or limit it, there is simply no reason to vote no on just proceeding to a discussion.

The concern has been expressed that there be an opportunity to offer relevant amendments. Mr. President, no one has suggested otherwise. Let's have at it. The only action that would preclude amendments is a no vote this morning.

We are prepared to debate and vote on amendments. That opportunity was available at committee and it can be worked out here. In fact, the amendments offered or filed at committee would likely be germane post-cloture even if this were a cloture vote on the bill itself, rather than a motion to proceed.

So let's not look for excuses here. I urge my colleagues to vote yes and allow us to consider this important legislation. American families—parents and their children—deserve no less.

Having said that, I want to personally pay my respects to the distinguished Senator from Michigan, Senator ABRAHAM, for the leadership he has provided on this. Without him, we wouldn't be this far. I have to say he has been a great leader on the Judiciary Committee. I personally appreciate the efforts he has made on this bill thus far. I will support him every way I possibly can.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Utah for his kind remarks and look forward to

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



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