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Senate

The Senate met at 11 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:

Almighty God, one hundred and eighty-four years ago today at dawn, Francis Scott Key saw the Stars and Stripes over Fort McHenry and wrote the stirring words of our national anthem that have moved our hearts to patriotism ever since. "O say, does that star spangled banner yet wave, o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?" Yes, thankfully it does. As our flag flies over the Capitol this morning, we commit ourselves anew to serve You by doing the strategic work of government and by leading our Nation through the present crisis in a way that satisfies You.

Dear Father, it is good to know that You are not surprised by the needs we bring to You. You know them before we bring them to You. Help us to see that prayer is how You call us to do what You think is best rather than just a call for You to assist us with what we already have decided. Help us to wait for You, to listen intently to You, and to gain strength to carry out Your best for us, personally and for our Nation. In the Name of our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will begin debate in relation to the motion to proceed to S. 1981, the Truth in Employment Act, with the time between now and 1 p.m. equally divided between Senators

HUTCHINSON and KENNEDY or their designees. I see that Senator HUTCHINSON is on the floor and prepared to go forward and already has his charts on display here. I appreciate the work that he has done in this area.

At 1 p.m. the Senate will resume consideration of the Interior appropriations bill. It is the majority leader's hope that the Interior bill will be finished the first part of this week. Last week there were other issues that were debated, that were attached to the Interior appropriations bill, and cloture votes that were also voted on. But I think this week it is important that we stay focused on the Interior appropriations bill, this afternoon and Tuesday and Wednesday, if necessary, to try to get it completed. That is an important part of us doing the people's business.

Yes, there are a lot of distractions, but in the meantime the Senate must continue to go forward with the things that have to be done before we can go out at the end of this session so that our Members can go home and be with their constituents. So the Interior bill will be our principal focus this week. Senators who have amendments are encouraged to come to the floor. Don't keep shoving them off and saying, "I will offer them later," "I will offer them Tuesday," "I will offer them Wednesday." You will wind up being here at 10 o'clock Wednesday night having to offer and debate your amendments. I hope that Senators will come forward and offer amendments if they have them.

At 5 p.m., under a previous order, the Senate will resume debate in relation to the Truth in Employment Act until 5:30. At that time the Senate will proceed to a vote on cloture on a motion to proceed to the employment bill.

Also at that time there could be a vote or votes on or in relation to amendments on the Interior appropriations bill. We do not have that locked in yet, but we would like to get some work done, and there is a likelihood

that there will be a second vote following the vote that is already scheduled at 5:30. Further votes could occur, as I said, during this evening. And Members should expect that we will have to go into the evening almost every night this week.

In addition, on Friday we did get a unanimous consent agreement with regard to how we would bring up and debate and vote on the bankruptcy reform bill. I thank Senators on both sides for working late into the night Thursday night and during the morning Friday, that allowed us to craft this unanimous consent agreement. We will bring that up the first opportunity we have—certainly only after consultation with the Democratic leader. But if we could finish the Interior bill at a reasonable time Wednesday, we could very well go to the bankruptcy bill either Wednesday night or Thursday, but it will depend on how things go between now and then.

Also, I understand that the Banking Committee did report out, by a wide margin, the Financial Services Act last week. I had indicated to the chairman, Chairman D'AMATO, that if they reported it out on a broad bipartisan vote, we would look for an opportunity to have a vote on that also. I don't know if that would come before next week or even the next week, but bankruptcy reform and the Financial Services Act would be two very large accomplishments, if we could get these done before we go out at the end of the session.

So, again, I hope Senators will be prepared to work hard, offer their amendments, let us have our votes, and let us make some progress so we can show the American people, despite the distractions, we are doing our work.

I yield the floor.

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



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