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Senate

(Legislative day of Thursday, March 23, 1995)

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND.]

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend John Lloyd Ogilvie, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Almighty God, Sovereign of this Nation and gracious Father of our lives, You have placed a homing spirit within us and made our hearts restless until they rest in You. The heart of the matter always is the heart. Our hearts are lonely until they return and find their home in You. You receive us as we are with unqualified grace. Thank You, Father, for the strength, security, and serenity You provide us in the midst of strain and stress. You offer us perfect peace in the midst of pressure and the tyranny of the urgent.

We also thank You that we find each other as we return to You. You give us the miracle of unity in diversity, oneness in spite of our differences. You hold us together when otherwise ideas, policies, and resolutions would divide us. Make us sensitive to one another, especially when a vote makes conspicuous our differences. Help us to reach out to each other to affirm that we are one in the calling to lead our Nation. May we neither savor our victories or nurse our disappointments, but press on.

So we fall on the knees of our hearts seeking Your blessing for our work this day. To know You is our greatest privilege and to grow in our knowledge of You will be our most urgent need. Our strength is insufficient; bless us with Your wisdom. Our vision is incomplete; bless us with Your hope. Carpe diem. We grasp the day. In Your holy name, Yahweh, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, this morning, leader time has been reserved, and there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 10 a.m. At the hour of 10 a.m., the Senate will begin consideration of H.R. 831, the self-employed health insurance deduction bill. That bill will be considered under a 5-hour time limitation which was agreed upon last evening.

The majority leader has announced that there will be no rollcall votes during today's session of the Senate. Senator DOLE has also indicated that it will be his intention to proceed to the regulation moratorium bill on Monday. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INHOFE). Under the previous order, the Senator from Arizona [Mr. McCAIN] is recognized to speak for up to 15 minutes.

The distinguished Senator from Arizona.

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, I expect to be joined in a few minutes by my friend and colleague from the other side of the aisle, Senator KERREY of Nebraska. We may engage in a brief colloquy after our remarks. But I will begin with my remarks.

CIVILITY IN PUBLIC DISCOURSE

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, there has been considerable media discussion lately about the decline of civility in our public discourse. I agree that political rhetoric often seems quite harsh these days. I have also observed that the people who report on politicians, and who are often among the first to decry the incivility of politics, seem more inclined lately to allow their reporting to cross from tough to cruel.

That said, I cannot claim with certainty that manners in either politics or the press have truly degenerated to new lows. I suspect that every American generation in our history has had occasion to be repulsed by unnecessarily mean attacks from within and upon politics that are unavoidable in a free society. Political cartoonists, for instance, have throughout our history spared few public figures from ridicule. Often the ridicule is earned. Sometimes it is not. Sometimes even the license given cartoonists cannot excuse an especially malignant attack.

Such was the case last Sunday when Mr. Garry Trudeau decided to use his comic strip to scorn the military service of the majority leader, Senator DOLE.

The author of the comic strip "Doonesbury," Mr. Trudeau has made it his business to lampoon not only Republicans, but anyone whose devotion to the looniest of left wing causes he suspects is less robust than his own. His increasingly strident attacks have forsaken whatever humor might have once distinguished his cartoons from the silly rantings of your garden variety conspiracy theorist. Even former admirers of his comic strip tell me that he has become decidedly unfunny in recent years.

For this singular contribution to American culture, Mr. Trudeau feels he should be permitted to dispense with the encumbrances of good manners. Apparently, artists of his caliber cannot be burdened by the bonds that hold most of us together in our disparate society—bonds like honor and respect.

Ordinary Americans, of course, feel it appropriate to show gratitude to Americans who have ransomed their life to the defense of their freedom. Ordinary Americans would recoil from the suggestion that there is humor in ridiculing the sacrifice borne by an American

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



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