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## Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, June 19, 1995)

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chaplain will now deliver the opening prayer.

### PRAYER

Father of liberty, as we begin this Fourth of July weekend and recess time, we praise You for our Founding Fathers who received from You the strength and courage to claim their inalienable right to be free and drafted the Declaration of Independence. You gave them victory in a just revolution and placed in their hearts the American dream. We join our voices with these gallant heroes of liberty in confessing total dependence on You. We know that You are the Author of the glorious vision that gave birth to our beloved Nation.

Through the years we have learned that freedom is not free. It must be cherished, defended, and fought for at high cost. We thank You for the brave men and women who have given their lives in the cause of freedom and justice. Today, help us to be willing to pay the cost of freedom as we lead our Nation. We give You our minds, hearts, and energy as we grapple with the issues of moving this Nation forward in keeping with Your vision. As the fireworks explode in the sky in our Fourth of July celebrations, implode in our hearts a new burst of patriotism and commitment. God, empower the women and men of this Senate and bless America. In Your holy name. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

### SCHEDULE

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, this morning the leader time has been reserved, and there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 10:30 a.m.

The rescissions bill is expected to arrive from the House of Representatives today, and Senator DOLE, our majority leader, has indicated he would like to complete action on that bill today. Rollcall votes are therefore possible during today's session of the Senate.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mr. GRAMS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COVERDELL). The distinguished Senator from Minnesota is recognized.

### FREEDOM OR SECURITY?

Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, this coming Tuesday, the American people will celebrate the Fourth of July. It is a day for parties and parades, fireworks, and family picnics.

It is a day for remembering the bedrock of freedom on which this country was built, and how freedom still binds us together.

So it is ironic that 1 day later, July 5, we will take action right here on Capitol Hill to clamp down on the very freedoms we embrace on Independence Day.

It began on April 19, in Oklahoma City.

The reverberations of the bombing at the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building were felt across America, but echoed loudly in Washington, DC, home to more Federal buildings—and Federal employees—than any other city in the Nation.

And almost immediately, a siege mentality took hold.

Here at the Capitol, police took extraordinary steps to protect against the possibility of a terrorist attack.

They beefed up patrols around the building, stopped cars and checked

trunks, eliminated parking in some areas, increased the sensitivity on the entryway metal detectors, and kept the public away from ground floor windows with yards of yellow tape labeled "Police Line—Do Not Cross."

Soon after, the U.S. Treasury Department ordered Pennsylvania Avenue closed to cars and trucks in front of the White House.

For the first time in the 195-year history of the Executive Mansion, the people were no longer allowed to drive past the people's house.

And now, 1 month after Pennsylvania Avenue was shut down to traffic, police say more drastic measures are needed. A plan will go into effect here on Wednesday, July 5, that will even further limit the people's access to Capitol Hill and those of us who work here on the people's behalf.

The Senate Sergeant-at-Arms and the U.S. Capitol Police say that traffic will be restricted or eliminated altogether around the three Senate office buildings.

Some parking will be eliminated, too.

Streets will be closed with the concrete barriers that have become all-too-common in this city. It will be more tire shredders, not "welcome" signs, that will greet visitors.

The Capitol Police say they are trying to strike a balance between free access, and the security of the Congress and its visitors.

They say the changes I have outlined mean only "minor traffic disruptions" and will have "little impact on the community."

Mr. President, I have great admiration and respect for the officers and police administrators who work every day—sometimes putting their own lives on the line—to make this a safe and secure place to work and visit.

They have and deserve our thanks. But with all due respect to them, there is much more at stake in this decision

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



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