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## Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 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:

Almighty God, our gracious heavenly Father and Lord of all life, we praise You for hearing and answering our prayers. Today, we are very aware of how You work through men and women to get Your work done. Without You, we cannot; without us You will not. You are the source of all that we have and are. We are thankful that there is no limit to what can be accomplished when we humbly give You the glory and no limit to the problems that can be solved when we diligently seek what is best for our Nation.

You have been at work through us to plan for the future of our Nation. We thank You for using leaders in both parties to break the deadlock and get the Government moving again. Help us to affirm the truths we have claimed together for our fiscal future and inspire us to resolve differences that remain. We press on with awe and wonder over this vivid reminder of Your direct involvement in all the details of our lives and of Your willingness to accomplish Your plan through us. In the name of our Lord. Amen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COVERDELL). The able majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, for the information of my colleagues, there will be a period for morning business with Senators entitled to speak up to 10 minutes each. Today, we expect to adopt an adjournment resolution in time for the Senate to adjourn for Thanksgiving. It is possible the Senate may consider any legislative or execu-

tive items that have been cleared for action, but there will be no votes today.

The House will not start voting until 5 o'clock this afternoon. Hopefully, they can have a near-unanimous vote on the resolution we passed yesterday to keep the Government going until December 15. If something should happen there, if there should be an amendment or something, we would be coming back an hour after that final disposition. I do not think that will happen, but we will have to leave that possibility open, just in the event there should be some other action on the House floor.

### A BUDGET TO BE THANKFUL FOR

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, the past few days have been historic ones in Washington, DC. As we approach Thanksgiving, I believe our children and our grandchildren will have a lot to be thankful for. They may not understand it. Maybe their parents will not understand it, maybe their grandparents will not understand it, but I do believe we have provided the leadership the American people have been waiting for, the leadership to do the most important thing we could ever do: pass a balanced budget for the first time in a generation.

While President Clinton says he opposes our budget, last night the Republican majority reached an agreement with the White House, with the President and congressional Democrats to enact legislation before the end of this year to balance the budget by the year 2002 using honest economic estimates of the Congressional Budget Office, a balanced budget in 7 years. That is what this discussion has been all about. We have never lost sight, on our side of the aisle, of our principles. We are fighting for America's future. Some may not appreciate it, some may not

understand it, but that is what the battle is all about.

We would like to make budget deficits a thing of the past. And make no mistake about it, this is all about America's future, all about generations yet to come. This may be our—maybe not last, but one of our best opportunities to make fundamental change in the way we do business, the way the Government does business, so that our children will inherit something. Maybe they can inherit a dream rather than crushing debt.

I think we owe all Americans an economy with lower interest rates so more people can buy a car, farm machinery, take out a college loan, or realize a lifetime dream of maybe buying a home. Believe me, if you look at the numbers—not my numbers but numbers from experts in the field—if, in fact, we have a balanced budget over 7 years, the markets will respond, interest rates will fall. It is like a tax cut. For every American it is like a big tax cut. If you pay less interest when you buy a car, buy a home, student loan, it is just as much money in your pocket as a tax cut would be.

So, for the hard-working Americans, we owe it to them to do what we should do. We owe it to America's seniors to save Medicare from bankruptcy, just as we saved Social Security from bankruptcy in 1983 in a bipartisan way. President Reagan, a Republican, Tip O'Neill, Democratic Speaker of the House, and Howard Baker, Republican leader of the Senate, put together a commission—and I was honored to be on the commission with the likes of Claude Pepper of Florida, the champion of senior citizens, and many others—and, in a bipartisan way, we rescued Social Security from bankruptcy in 1983.

I think we owe it to American families to give them back more of their

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



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