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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, December 11, 1995, at 12 noon.

## Senate

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1995

The Senate met at 10 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:

Let us pray:

Lord of all life, thank You for the gift of time. You have given us the hours of this day to work for Your glory by serving our Nation. Remind us that there is enough time in any one day to do what You want us to accomplish. Release us from that rushed feeling when we overload Your agenda for us with things which You may not have intended for us to cram into today. Help us to live on Your timing. Grant us serenity when we feel irritated by trifling annoyances, by temporary frustration, by little things to which we must give time and attention. May we do what the moment demands with a heart of readiness. Also give us the courage to carve out time for quiet thought and creative planning to focus our attention on the big things we must debate, and eventually decide with a decisive vote. Help us to be silent, wait on You, and receive Your guidance. May the people we serve and those with whom we work sense that in the midst of pressure and the rough and tumble of political life, we have had our minds replenished by listening to You. In the name of our Lord. Amen.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### FLAG DESECRATION CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of Senate Joint Resolution 31, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 31) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to grant Congress and the States the power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

The Senate proceeded to consideration of the joint resolution.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEWINE). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, in listening to the debate on the flag amendment on Wednesday and some of the remarks of some of my colleagues here on the floor, my reaction with respect to some of their arguments and some of the arguments of the opponents of the flag amendment comes down to, there they go again. The same tired, old, worn out arguments, again and again.

One of my colleagues from Arkansas says we are here because of "pure, sheer politics." Evidently, some opponents of the amendment believe there is only one side to this argument, and everybody else must be playing politics. Tell that to Rose Lee, a Gold Star

Wife and past president of the Gold Star Wives of America.

She testified in support of this constitutional amendment to prevent desecration of the American flag, our national symbol. She testified in support of this amendment on June 6, 1995, before the Constitution Subcommittee, and brought with her the flag that had draped her husband's coffin. She said:

It's not fair and it's not right that flags like this flag, handed to me by an honor guard 23 years ago, can be legally burned by someone in this country. It is a dishonor to our husbands and an insult to their widows to allow this flag to be legally burned.

Go tell Rose Lee she supports the flag protection amendment out of pure, sheer politics.

Go tell the members of the American Legion who have been visiting our offices. Go tell our colleague, Senator HEFLIN, a Silver Star winner from World War II, that he is playing politics. Tell the Senate Democratic whip, Senator FORD, that he is playing politics by cosponsoring and supporting this amendment, a man who has suffered a lot for this country. Tell the Democratic leader of the other body, Congressman RICHARD GEPHARDT, and 92 other House Democrats that they played politics when they voted for this amendment.

As for the number of flag desecrations—again, my friend from Arkansas was wrong. He said there were none this year. In fact, there have been published reports of at least 20 American flags destroyed at a cemetery in Bloomington, IN, alone. They were cut or ripped from flagpoles and burned. These desecrations were also reported on local television.

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



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