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Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

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

Gracious God, thank You for this moment of prayer in which we can affirm our unity. Thank You for giving us all the same calling: to express our love for You by faithful service to our Nation. So much of our time is spent debating our differences that we often forget the bond of unity that binds us together. We are one in our belief in You, the ultimate and only Sovereign of this Nation. You are the magnetic and majestic Lord of us all who draws us out of pride and self-centeredness to worship You together. We find each other as we praise You with one heart and express our gratitude with one voice.

Together we accept the unique role You have given our Nation in the family of nations. We praise You for Your truth spelled out in the Bill of Rights and our Constitution. Help us not to take for granted the freedom we enjoy. May a fresh burst of praise for Your providential care for our Nation give us a renewed patriotism. Keep us close to You and open to each other as we do the sacred tasks of our work in the Senate today. In the unity of the spirit and the bond of peace. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

THANKING THE SENATE CHAPLAIN

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, we want to all express, again, our appreciation to our very fine Chaplain for his daily in-

vocations of blessings on this institution and our God's guidance.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Having said that, I want to announce that there will be a period of morning business this morning with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each.

It is expected that around 12:30 we hope to get some agreements with regard to what issues will be brought up this afternoon and exactly what time. Those agreements certainly could involve consideration of the Department of Defense authorization conference report, as well as the START II treaty. The Senate also will consider the continuing resolution during today's session.

All Members, therefore, should anticipate that there will be rollover votes today. The leadership is trying to accommodate all of the Senators' various wishes, and changing schedules. We will try to get an agreement and action on the critical issues as soon as agreement can be reached.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GREGG). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

The acting leader.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I apologize to the distinguished Senator waiting to speak but, with reference to the schedule, I would like to make a couple of comments, if I could.

Also, of course, there will be conversation today about the START II bill.

I want to commend the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, who is

here on the floor, for his effort to get a quick turnaround on this conference report agreement. It is bipartisan. Several of the problems that existed in the previous conference report have been removed and a compromise has been worked out. I am sure it is one that neither side is 100 percent happy with, but it is one that I think we should support, and we should move quickly today. I know we have indications that the President will sign this bill. I believe the ranking member of the Armed Services Committee will support it.

So, I hope we can get a quick agreement to move forward on this Department of Defense conference report. We hope to be able to announce something on that in the next few minutes.

Also, there has been an understanding with regard to time that will be used on START II. Hopefully, we can take that time and move forward on that bill, also.

On the continuing resolution, I would like to point out to our colleagues here in the Senate that there has been a lot of work done on this continuing resolution. Again, there has been a lot of give and take. The proof of that is the fact that it passed the House of Representatives last night by an overwhelming margin of 371 to 42. Only 42 voted against this continuing resolution. So truly it was a bipartisan effort. I have had some contact with the negotiators on that package. They certainly worked very hard, and they came up with what is good for now. It will take us to March 15 and give us additional time to get agreement on the appropriations bills that have not passed this body. Hopefully, the Labor-HHS and Education appropriations bills can be moved through the Senate. I remind my colleagues once again that this is where that issue languishes—right here in the Senate.

The White House has indicated its support for this continuing resolution until March 15. So, it is bipartisan in

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



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