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Senate

The Senate met at 11 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:

Gracious Father, source of all that we have and are, we are here by Your planning and for Your purposes. You have made possible any success we have had. Any recognition we have received is a reflection of abilities You have given us. You have blessed us with loved ones, friends, and fellow workers who have made possible any accomplishments. All our opportunities are a result of Your careful arrangement of circumstances. Nothing happens without Your permission.

So we commit this day to be one of special gratitude for all Your blessings. May our gratitude spill over with words of affirmation and encouragement to others. Help us make this a just-because-day in which we do special acts of kindness just because of Your love for us and our delight in others. So if there are any good words we've been thinking about saying or any acts of caring we've put off doing, may we say and do them today, just because of You, Lord, and all You have done for us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today, there will be a period of morning business until 1 p.m. with the time equally divided between the two parties. Following this morning business period, the Senate will begin consideration of S. 1541, the farm bill. Under the agree-

ment reached during yesterday's session, Senator DORGAN will offer an amendment on which a cloture motion will be filed today. Also under an agreement, a cloture motion will be filed on the underlying bill. Those cloture votes will occur tomorrow beginning at 1:30 p.m.

I now ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, Members have until close of business today in order to file first-degree amendments.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Senators should also be aware that there will be a joint meeting of Congress on Thursday at 11:45 a.m. to hear the address by the President of France, President Chirac. Members should be in the Senate Chamber at 11:25 in order to proceed to the House of Representatives for the address.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HUTCHISON). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. GREGG. What is the regular order?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is in morning business.

Mr. GREGG. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 10 minutes.

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

THE SUGAR PROGRAM

Mr. GREGG. Madam President, tomorrow, or possibly Friday, we will be voting on cloture motions dealing with

the Farm Program and a variety of bills dealing with the Farm Program.

Within the context of the entire Farm Program, there are a lot of subprograms, and one that I wish to talk about is the Sugar Program. The Sugar Program in this country has proceeded since the early 1980's to be a program of inordinate subsidy for a few small farmers—for a few farmers; they are not small farmers—at the expense of the consumers of this country.

Last year, it was estimated that the Sugar Program cost the consumers of this country approximately \$1.4 billion. It has cost the consumers of this country approximately \$10 billion over the last decade. That is because we have in this country a system in the Sugar Program where we artificially inflate the cost of sugar to benefit a few growers of sugarcane and some sugar beets, but primarily in this instance it is benefiting sugarcane growers.

This makes no sense. This program is appropriately tied to sugar, I guess, because the last vestiges of Marxism in the world of any significance is the nation of Cuba, which always had a sugar-based economy.

Now, you might argue, well, China is still a Marxist nation. Actually, China has become quite capitalistic. Cuba is the only country, certainly in the Western Hemisphere, it is the only dictatorship in the Western Hemisphere, in the world that still practices theoretically pure Marxism, Marxism being a system where essentially the State sets the price and the production of all commodities within the community. And, of course, the Cuban economy is always based on sugar. So maybe that is why we as a nation have for some reason decided in our sugar industry we are going to emulate Cuba because that is essentially what we do. We have in the Farm Program which we have designed in this country essentially a system of top-down market controls,

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



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