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Senate

The Senate met at 9 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, on this National Day of Prayer, we join with millions across our land in intercession and supplication to You, the Sovereign Lord of the United States of America. As we sound that sacred word "Sovereign," we echo Washington, Jefferson, Madison, and Lincoln along with other leaders through the years, in declaring that You are our ultimate ruler. We make a new commitment to be one Nation under You, God, and we place our trust in You.

You have promised that if Your people will humble themselves, seek Your face, and pray, You will answer and heal our land. Lord, as believers that in You, we are Your people. You have called us to be salt in any bland neglect of our spiritual heritage and light in the darkness of what contradicts Your vision for our Nation. Give us courage to be accountable to You and Your commandments. We repent for the pride, selfishness, and prejudice that often contradict Your justice and righteousness in our society.

Lord of new beginnings, our Nation needs a great spiritual awakening. May this day of prayer be the beginning of that awakening with each of us in this Senate. We urgently ask that our honesty about the needs of our Nation and our humble confession of our spiritual hunger for You may sweep across this Nation. Hear the prayers of Your people and continue to bless America. In Your holy name. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

Mr. LOTT. Thank you, Mr. President.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today, there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 10 a.m. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1664, the immigration bill. Under the consent order of last night, there are several amendments remaining to the immigration bill. With the cooperation of those Members who have amendments still to be offered, it is hoped that we will be able to stack any votes ordered on those amendments. It is possible that those votes will not occur prior to 12 noon. Following the disposition of the amendments, there will be 30 minutes of debate, to be followed by a vote on the Simpson amendment, to be followed by a vote on invoking cloture immediately after that, and then passage of the immigration legislation. All Senators can, therefore, expect rollcall votes throughout today's session.

I understand that there are a number of Senators who have reserved time for comments during morning business that will begin now. It will go on until 10 a.m. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for not to extend beyond the hour of 10 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for not to exceed 5 minutes each. Time has been reserved by Senator BURNS, Senator

GRASSLEY, Senator GRAMS, Senator DORGAN, and Senator BINGAMAN. The Senator from Montana is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURNS. I thank the Chair.

AMERICA ON MY MIND—THE GAS TAX

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, 3 years ago, President Clinton raised America's taxes in the misguided effort to reduce the Federal budget deficit. He claimed that it was time for the rich to "pay their fair share," but as usual, the middle class felt the brunt of his tax hikes.

Mr. President, with the gas prices soaring to record levels, I rise today with America on my mind to call for the immediate repeal of the punitive and regressive gas tax hikes that you put in place and the Democratic Congress in 1993 forced on America in the name of "fairness."

You see, I do not believe that it is fair to force families, and especially families that have to have a certain product or item for agriculture, who are in charge of producing the food and fiber, the very necessity of America, to get the taxes hiked on them around 30 percent just to pay for programs like AmeriCorps while ignoring the real problems like welfare reform, saving Medicare, or our criminal justice system.

Since 1992, his 4.3-cents-per-gallon tax increase has generated over \$11 billion for the Federal Government. It has come directly out of the pockets of America's families. I believe it is time to put that money back.

President Clinton is inconsistent. In 1993, he raised America's taxes claiming he cared about the deficit, but

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



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