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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:15 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, Sovereign of this Nation, we begin the work of this day with an acute sense of our accountability to You. We claim Solomon's promise, "In everything you do, put God first, and He will direct you and crown your effort with success".—Prov. 3:6. In response, we say with the psalmist, "May the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be pleasing in Your sight, O Lord".—Psalm 19:14. Help us remember that every thought we think and every word we speak is open to Your scrutiny. We commit this day to love You with our minds and honor You with our words. Guide the crucial decisions of this day. Bless the Senators with Your gifts of wisdom and vision. Grant them the profound inner peace that results from trusting You completely. Draw them together in oneness in diversity, unity in patriotism, and loyalty in a shared commitment to You. In the name of our Lord. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

### SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business until the hour of 11 a.m. I believe the Senator from Delaware, Senator ROTH, is prepared to begin speaking immediately. Following morning business, the Senate will begin debate on House Joint Resolution 1, the balanced budget constitutional amendment.

Senators are reminded that a vote on passage on the balanced budget amendment will occur at 12 noon tomorrow by unanimous consent. It is also possible that the Senate may consider other legislative or Executive Calendar items that can be cleared for action. I know that the distinguished majority leader, Senator DOLE, has been working to see if some of these executive items can be cleared. We hope that can be worked out during this week.

I yield the floor.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INHOFE). Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for not to exceed 5 minutes each. The Senator from Delaware, [Mr. ROTH], is recognized for 30 minutes.

### UNCONDITIONAL MFN STATUS FOR CHINA

Mr. ROTH. Mr. President, I rise to talk about why I believe every Member of this Chamber should support the unconditional extension of most-favored-nation trading status to the People's Republic of China. As we are all aware, Senator DOLE declared his support for unconditional extension of MFN for China sometime ago. More recently, the President announced he would renew China's MFN status unconditionally for another year.

Now the matter comes before the Congress. We have to decide whether or not Senator DOLE's position and the President's decision deserve our support. The Chinese, of course, have not made this issue easy for us. Their destabilizing nuclear, chemical, and missile sales, their continued nuclear testing, their assertiveness in the South China Sea, their growing trade surplus with the United States, their piracy of

our intellectual property, their military threats against Taiwan, their moves to undermine democratic reforms in Hong Kong, and their abuses of human rights, these all demand a stern reply.

That is why it is tempting to revoke China's MFN status. But it would be a huge mistake to do so. I say this for four reasons.

First, revoking MFN would put at risk hundreds of thousands of American jobs, and billions of dollars worth of American exports and investments.

Second, revoking MFN is an ineffective weapon that would not solve any of the problems we have with China. Indeed, revocation may make them worse.

Third, more proportional, targeted measures currently available permit a more effective response to these problems.

Finally, extending MFN is fundamental to developing a coherent China policy—one that sets priorities and provides a strategic framework for the conduct of our relations with that important country. Mr. President, the United States, East Asia, and the entire world have much to gain from a positive relationship between Washington and Beijing and much to lose from an unnecessarily confrontational one.

Before going into more detail about these four points, I believe it necessary to clarify the meaning of the term, "most-favored-nation trading status." That's because the term gives the false impression that MFN is some sort of special privilege or reward.

The term even confuses our most prestigious newspapers. In their stories on the President's announcement to renew China's MFN status, the Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post,

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



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