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## Senate

(Legislative day of Friday, September 20, 1996)

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, 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, Almighty Sovereign of our Nation, and strength of our lives, we thank You for the privilege of living in this land You have blessed so bountifully. With awe and wonder, we realize anew the stunning truth that You have called the United States to be Your providential demonstration of the freedom and equality, righteousness and justice, opportunity and hope, You desire for all nations. O God, help us to be faithful to our heritage.

We praise You for the way You have blessed us with great leaders in each period of our history. Through them You have continued to give Your vision for the unfolding of the American dream. And this is especially true today. Bless the Senators with a renewed sense of their calling to greatness through Your grace. You have appointed them; now anoint them afresh with Your spirit. As they confront the soul-sized, crucial issues of this week, give them a spirit of unity and cooperativeness. The workload is great, the pressure is heavy, and the challenge is formidable; but, nothing is impossible for You.

Fill this Chamber with Your presence. You are the judge of all that will be said and done here. Ultimately, we have no one to please or answer to but You. With renewed commitment to You, and reignited patriotism, we press on to living the page of American history to be written this week. Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

Mr. LOTT. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this morning there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 10:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each. Following morning business today, it would be my intention to begin consideration of a continuing resolution. We are fast approaching the end of this fiscal year. It certainly is my hope that we would be allowed to begin this important appropriations measure. At this time, we are unable to reach an agreement to begin that bill. I tried several different approaches last Friday in discussions with the Democratic leader. We were not able to come to any agreement at that time, but we will keep working today. Hopefully, we can reach some understanding as to how we would proceed.

In accordance with the agreement reached on Friday, the Senate will resume consideration of the maritime security legislation today at 4:30, with a series of rollcall votes beginning at 5 p.m. on or in relation to pending amendments as well as final passage on that. I presume there would be at least four votes at that time. So we will have the stacked votes at 5 o'clock.

We are also hoping that the one outstanding issue on S. 1505, the pipeline safety bill, could be resolved, and we could complete action on that measure also.

It is my understanding that the VA-HUD appropriations conference report may be available for consideration this afternoon. I know that the agreement has been worked out and that they are

scheduled to vote sometime today. I do not know exactly what time we will get it. But as soon as we get it, we will try to get it into the mix at the earliest possible opportunity. It certainly is an important appropriations bill dealing with the Veterans' Administration and, of course, all of our housing policies in the country. We need to get that bill completed in order for the checks to go out on time at the end of this week or certainly the first of next week.

We will stand in recess today from 12:30 to 2:15 for the weekly policy conferences to meet. Once again, I ask for the cooperation of all Senators as we begin what I hope will be the final week of the Senate's business prior to adjournment. In order to accomplish that, it is going to take a lot of cooperation, a lot of give-and-take. I certainly will make every effort to work with all Senators. I hope Senators understand that this week is going to be very hard to schedule votes around other events, especially if we are really moving seriously toward completing our work, as we should, on Friday or Saturday.

In addition to that, we are working to see if we can clear problems with the NIH revitalization authorization bill. I understand there is the potential point of order that maybe can be worked out. There is a lot of support for this important legislation. I hope maybe we could do it like we did last week on the Magnuson fisheries bill, the FAA reauthorization, and the maritime bill. We can work through those problems and hopefully get about an hour to have some discussion to get a vote.

We are also working with Senator KASSEBAUM, who is very, very interested in the job partnership training legislation. There are problems there again, a point of order, which looks like it may not be resolvable, but we may call it up for some discussion this

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



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