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Senate

The Senate met at 10 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:

Dear God, this is one of those days when we really need two alarm clocks: One to wake us up and the other to remind us of why we are up. Give us a two-alarm wake-up call every hour of today—an alarm to go off inside us to wake us up to the wonderful privilege of being alive, and the other to claim the wondrous power You offer us to do Your will in all the responsibilities and challenges You have given us.

Keep us sensitive to see You at work in the world around us, active in the lives of people and abundant in Your blessings. Astonish us with evidences of Your intervening love. When we least expect You, You are there. May we never lose the capacity to be constantly amazed by what You are up to in our lives and the lives of people around us. You have taught us that a bored, bland, unsurprisable, unamazed person is a contradiction in terms.

So, Lord, give us courage to attempt what only You could help us achieve. Renew our enthusiasm; invigorate our vision; replenish our strength. With eyes, minds, and hearts wide open, we press on to the day. In the name of Him who gives us abundant life. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Chair.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until the hour of 1 p.m. to accommodate a number of Senators who

have requested time to speak. That is 3 hours, but we have those requests that have been made, and we have a Senator waiting to begin speaking now. So we will accommodate those requests.

It is my hope that an agreement will be reached this morning to begin consideration of H.R. 1003, the so-called assisted suicide bill. If an agreement is reached, Senators can expect to begin consideration of the bill at 1 p.m. with a 3-hour time limitation. Therefore, Senators can expect rollcall votes this afternoon. I would expect at least one and possibly two. As always, I will notify Senators of the voting schedule as soon as possible.

I yield the floor, Mr. President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from Colorado is recognized.

Mr. CAMPBELL. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. CAMPBELL pertaining to the introduction of S. 587, S. 588, S. 589, S. 590, and S. 591 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. CAMPBELL. I thank the Chair and yield the floor. I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. AL-LARD). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. THOMAS. I would also like to ask unanimous consent I be allowed to speak in morning business for 15 minutes.

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

THE FUTURE OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SYSTEM: A PLAN FOR LEADERSHIP

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I want to talk about a subject that is very im-

portant and close to my heart, and that is national parks, for at least two reasons. One is I grew up right outside of Yellowstone Park in Wyoming. We have Teton Park in Wyoming as well.

I am also chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks. We have had a series of two hearings on the future of the National Park System, and, as chairman, I am committed to the formulation of a proparks agenda which will allow us to enrich parks well into the next century.

Before speaking on the issue of the future, however, let me briefly discuss the current status of the system and some of the real problems that do confront us. Today's National Park System is comprised of 375 park units and is visited each year by millions of visitors. The parks are immensely popular destinations, of course, intended to protect and commemorate this country's most significant natural, historical, and culture resources.

According to recent testimony from our hearings, this diverse collection of units stimulates over \$10 billion annually in revenue to local economies and supports 230,000 tourism-related jobs. Each year, 12 million foreign visitors are drawn to our parks, contributing significantly to a \$22 billion international travel trade surplus. So, in addition to protecting our most precious resources, they are also an economic stimulus, of course.

The Park Service is currently authorized to employ 20,342 full-time workers. This system includes approximately 80.2 million acres. The 1997 budget is authorized at roughly \$1.4 billion.

This relatively small agency, managing a large land base enjoying unparalleled popularity and generating significant tax and business revenues, faces a pressing dilemma. At a time when the American taxpayers are serious about smaller Government and lower taxes, Americans have also demonstrated an equally serious interest in their parks.

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



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