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Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon 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, we begin this session of the Senate with affirmations of great truths:

You are the Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer of all.

You are the Sovereign of this Nation.

We are accountable to You for our leadership.

You have called us to serve You.

We are here by Your divine appointment.

The margin of human error is ever-present.

We can limit Your best for our Nation.

Without Your help we can hit wide of the mark.

With Your guidance, we cannot fail.

There are solutions to our most complex problems.

There is no limit to what You will do if we trust You.

So this is a day for hope, optimism, and courage. Set us free of any negative thinking or attitudes. If You could give birth to this Nation, bless us in adversities through the years, and give us victory in just wars, surely You are able to help us now if we will trust You. Fill this Chamber with Your presence and each Senator with Your power. In the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

ORDERS FOR TODAY

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader I ask unanimous consent

that the routine requests through the morning hour be granted and the Senate be in a period of morning business until the hour of 2 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak up to 5 minutes with the following exceptions: Senator GREGG, 10 minutes; Senator GRAMS, 10 minutes; Senator THOMAS, 30 minutes; Senator LOTT or his designee, 10 minutes; Senator DASCHLE or his designee, 60 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HUTCHISON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHEDULE

Mr. GREGG. Madam President, for the information of all Members and on behalf of the leader, today, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., the Senate will be in a period of morning business. It is the leader's hope that the Senate will be able to consider S. 419, the Birth Defects Prevention Act. Again, this bill is noncontroversial and the Senate should be able to complete action on this important matter in no more than 30 minutes.

In addition, it is the leader's hope that we will be able to consider some of the available executive nominations on today's Executive Calendar. The leader also hopes the Senate will be allowed to consider these items as we are fast approaching the July recess.

In addition, the leader wishes to put all Senators on notice that there is much work to do between now and the start of the adjournment, and that Senators should be prepared to be present and working during the next couple of weeks. And the leader further thanks his colleagues for their attention.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to morning business.

Mr. GREGG. Unless the Democratic leader wishes to go forward, I will proceed with my morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

NASHUA, NH, THE BEST PLACE IN AMERICA TO LIVE

Mr. GREGG. Madam President, today the State of New Hampshire and a number of communities in the State of New Hampshire were afforded a singular and appropriate honor. The city of Nashua, my hometown, where I was born, raised, and went to school, was rated the best place in America in which to live. The city of Manchester and the city of Portsmouth were rated the sixth and fifth best places in the country in which to live. That means the State of New Hampshire, which is a small State—and to paraphrase Daniel Webster, a small State but there are those of us who love it—received the designation of having three of its major communities within the State identified as the best places to live of the top 10 in the country. In fact, only one other State, Florida, was able to put three communities in the top 10. And, of course, Florida is about 6 or 7 times the size of New Hampshire in population.

In addition, no other State was able to put two of its communities in the top five, and New Hampshire has the first community and the fifth community in Nashua and Portsmouth. Those of us who live in New Hampshire and have enjoyed the fruits of being part of that wonderful community, understand that this is not an award which is received as a result of luck, but it is an award which is received as a result of a lot of hard work and, more important, a lot of community spirit. We are a State where people still care about their neighbors. We are a State where we care about how we deal with each other. And, as a result, we have built

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



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