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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 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, we thank You for this moment of quiet in which we can reaffirm who we are, whose we are and why we are here. Once again we commit ourselves to You as Sovereign Lord of our lives and our Nation. Our ultimate goal is to please and serve You. You have called us to be servant-leaders who glorify You in seeking to know and to do Your will in the unfolding of Your vision for America.

We spread out before you the specific decisions that must be made today. We claim Your presence all through the day. Guide our thinking and our speaking. May our convictions be based on undeniable truth which has been refined by You.

Bless the women and men of this Senate as they work together to find the best solutions to the problem before our Nation. Help them to draw on the supernatural resources of Your spirit. Give them divine wisdom, penetrating discernment, and indomitable courage.

When the day draws to a close may our deepest joy be that we received Your best for us and worked together for what is best for our Nation. In the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will resume consideration of S. 936, the defense authorization bill, and begin 90 minutes of de-

bate on the Grams second-degree amendment to the Cochran amendment regarding supercomputer export controls. At approximately 11 a.m. the Senate will vote on or in relation to the Grams amendment, to be followed by a vote on or in relation to the Cochran amendment. Following that, the Senate will continue consideration of amendments to the defense authorization bill with rollcall votes occurring throughout the day.

As the majority leader announced last night, the scheduled cloture vote will be postponed temporarily today, and an assessment will be made later today of the progress being made on the defense bill. With the cooperation of all Members, that cloture vote may not be necessary if good progress is made on the bill.

It is the intention of the majority leader that action on the defense authorization bill be completed this week. Senators should anticipate a busy session today that will extend into the evening. Work is anticipated as well on Friday, if necessary, to finish this important legislation. That announcement is made by me at the request of the majority leader for the information of all Senators.

Mr. President, as contained in this announcement, there is now 90 minutes that is available on the Grams amendment. If the Chair wants to make the announcement, I will yield the floor temporarily for that.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 936, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 936) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1998 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Cochran/Durbin amendment No. 420, to require a license to export computers with composite theoretical performance equal to or greater than 2,000 million theoretical operations per second.

Grams amendment No. 422 (to amendment No. 420), to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the availability and potential risks relating to the sale of certain computers.

Coverdell (for Inhofe/Coverdell/Cleland) amendment No. 423, to define depot-level maintenance and repair, to limit contracting for depot-level maintenance and repair at installations approved for closure or realignment in 1995, and to modify authorities and requirements relating to the performance of core logistics functions.

Wellstone amendment No. 669, to provide funds for the bioassay testing of veterans exposed to ionizing radiation during military service.

Wellstone modified amendment No. 668, to require the Secretary of Defense to transfer \$400,000,000 to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide funds for veterans' health care and other purposes.

Wellstone modified amendment No. 666, to provide for the transfer of funds for Federal Pell Grants.

Murkowski modified amendment No. 753, to require the Secretary of Defense to submit a report to Congress on the options available to the Department of Defense for the disposal of chemical weapons and agents.

Kyl modified amendment No. 607, to impose a limitation on the use of Cooperative Threat Reduction funds for destruction of chemical weapons.

Kyl amendment No. 605, to advise the President and Congress regarding the safety, security, and reliability of United States Nuclear weapons stockpile.

Dodd amendment No. 762, to establish a plan to provide appropriate health care to

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



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