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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.

Lord, when we get all wrapped up in ourselves, we are a very small package. Unwrap us so that we can focus our attention on You, on our calling to be leaders, and on the people around us. Meet our inner needs so we can meet the needs of others. Replenish our own energies so we can give ourselves unreservedly to the challenges of this new week. Give us gusto to confront problems and work to apply Your solutions. Replace our fears with vibrant faith. Most important of all, give us such a clear assurance of Your guidance that we will have the courage of our convictions.

Bless the women and men of this Senate with a personal experience of Your grace, an infilling of Your spirit of wisdom, and a vision of Your will in all that must be decided this week. In the Name of our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until the hour of 3 p.m. Following morning business, the Senate will begin consideration of the VA-HUD appropriations bill. We made great progress on appropriations bills last week and I hope that will continue. As a matter of fact, we completed action on four bills and completed everything on the fifth appropriations bill except for a vote on an

amendment or amendments and final passage. So I ask all Members' cooperation in working with the chairmen of the remaining appropriations bills to enable us to finish each of these measures in a timely manner. We are hoping that we can complete the bill that we brought over last week, the Treasury, Postal Service, with votes this afternoon. As I said, we will begin the VA-HUD and will consider agriculture, military construction, and even State, Justice, Commerce this week.

So I remind all Senators that at 5:15 today we will temporarily set aside the VA-HUD appropriations bill and resume consideration for final passage and, I believe, one amendment we have pending on the Treasury, Postal Service appropriations bill. Senators can expect, at 5:15, a series of rollcall votes on or in relation to those amendments on Treasury, Postal Service, and then final passage. Following those votes, I encourage Members who have amendments to the VA-HUD appropriations bill to remain and offer their amendments this evening so we can make progress also on that measure.

There are 2 weeks remaining for business prior to the August recess period. There are a number of appropriations bills now available, and the committee will be reporting additional bills tomorrow. It is my hope that the Senate will be able to finish action on many, if not all, of these. Obviously, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, the Senator from Alaska, Senator STEVENS, and his ranking member, Senator BYRD, are doing an excellent job in getting these bills through the subcommittees of appropriations and through the full committee. So we can perhaps also have conference reports available soon, in September, on appropriations bills, and we will have, hopefully in short order, conference reports agreed to which accompany the Tax Fairness Act and the balanced budget amendment, and they will be available later on this week, or certainly early

next week. Prior to the recess, we will conclude action on those conference reports.

Some have suggested that we may not be able to do that, but I think we have made good progress. There has been a lot of work even over the weekend, Senators and Congressmen meeting on both sides of the aisle on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday and also with administration officials. I think good progress has been made. Obviously, there are some very important decisions yet to be worked out. But I think we will be ready to be doing that today and tomorrow and maybe even Wednesday if it has to go over to that day.

I previously announced that S. 39, the tuna-dolphin bill, and the FDA reform bill could be considered this week, and probably at least one will be brought up. On the tuna-dolphin bill, we will begin the process on Wednesday to move toward a cloture vote on Friday, if some other agreement is not worked out. I believe the interested parties can work out a compromise that is acceptable to all sides. I know the administration is very interested in getting this legislation considered. I have been called by the President to urge that we schedule this legislation and we come to an agreement. This is an international agreement with regard to tuna and dolphin that has been laboriously worked out by 12 or 13 countries. We should not leave for the August recess without acting on it. We intend to do that. Although I say to one and all, we cannot tie up the Senate for an extended period of time on either one of these issues, FDA reform or the tuna-dolphin bill.

Needless to say, the remaining sessions during the legislative period will be busy, and Members should expect rollcall votes occurring throughout each day and into the evening if necessary. Senators should be cautious with their scheduling during the next 2-week period as we will attempt to complete these items just mentioned.

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



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