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Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m., and was called to order by the Honorable RICK SANTORUM, a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, our Creator, Sustainer, and loving heavenly Father, thank You for this moment of profound communication with You. We come to You just as we are—with our hurts and hopes, fears and frustrations, problems and perplexities. We also come to You with great memories of how You have helped us so faithfully when we trusted You in the past.

Now, in the peace of Your presence, we sense a fresh touch of Your Spirit. With a receptive mind and a heart wide open, we receive the inspiration and love You give so generously. Make us secure in Your grace and confident in Your goodness. We need Your power to carry out the responsibilities that are upon us this day.

Humbly, we now ask for divine inspiration in the decisions of this day. Because we are here to please You in all that we do. Our hope is that at the end of this day we will hear Your voice sounding in our souls, "Well done, good and faithful servant." Through our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

APPOINTMENT OF THE ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 17, 1997.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule 1, section 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RICK SANTORUM, a

Senator from the State of Pennsylvania, to perform the duties of the Chair.

STROM THURMOND,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SANTORUM thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair, in his capacity as a Senator from the State of Pennsylvania, suggests the absence of a quorum. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SCHEDULE

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, today the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2107, the Interior appropriations bill. Senators who have any additional amendments to this legislation are encouraged to contact the managers and come to the floor this morning so that we can continue to make real progress on this bill.

At 10:45 this morning, the Senate will begin 15 minutes of debate on H.R. 2016, the military construction appropriations conference report. A vote will occur at approximately 11 o'clock on the MilCon conference report. Following disposition of that report, the Senate will resume consideration of the Interior appropriations bill with the intention of completing that measure today. Therefore, Senators should anticipate votes throughout today's session. As always, Members will be notified as these votes are ordered. I thank my colleagues for their attention and yield the floor.

Mr. BIDEN addressed the Chair.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Delaware.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to proceed as if in morning business for up to 30 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROBERTS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, first of all, I have two statements I wish to make, but if any of my colleagues come in and wish to begin on the amendments, I will cease at that point and not ask for all 30 minutes.

Second, Mr. President, I apologize to you and others for my gravelly voice; I have a cold, and I understand sitting in the chair can be a task. It is hard enough sometimes to listen to me, and it is even harder sometimes when I am in this condition.

THE CHINA SUMMIT: WHAT KIND OF ENGAGEMENT?

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, at the end of October President Clinton will sit down with Chinese President Jiang Zemin to try to put the United States-China relationship on a sounder footing. After 8 years of tension in the relationship, it should go without saying that there is plenty of work to be done by both Presidents.

With over a billion people and a burgeoning economy undergoing a dramatic transformation from doctrinaire communism to market-driven capitalism, China undeniably is an emerging great power. How we deal with China will be one of the great foreign policy challenges of the next century.

The forthcoming meeting with President Jiang Zemin is one of a series of important opportunities to advance our relations that will occur over the next several months.

Today I want to outline some of the objectives that I think the United States should pursue during Jiang's visit, particularly in regard to one of the central issues in our relationship.

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



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