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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:

A bracing word from the Lord calls us to prayer. Through Isaiah He says, "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil; who put darkness for light and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and prudent in their own sight."—Isaiah 5:20-21.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we reaffirm the absolutes of Your Commandments and the irreducible mandates of the Bible. We commit ourselves to those principles rather than our own prejudices. Make us moral and spiritual leaders of our culture and not chameleon emulators of the equivocations of our time. Help us to discern Your good and reject the clever distortions of evil. May we be people of the light who dispel the darkness of deceit. Keep us from solicitous sweetness or unforgiving bitterness.

Dear God, bless the women and men of this Senate with the divine wisdom to lead and the greatness to inspire our beloved Nation. Through our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will resume consideration of the Coats amendment No. 1249 to S. 1156, the D.C. appropriations bill. Under the order, there will be 1 hour of debate prior to the cloture vote on the Coats amendment regarding school choice.

Following the 11 a.m. cloture vote, the Senate will continue debating amendments to the D.C. appropriations bill with the hope of finishing action on that bill during today's session. In addition, the Senate will consider the continuing resolution at some point during the session.

As previously ordered, the Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. in order for the weekly policy luncheons to meet, and the Senate may also return to consideration of S. 25 regarding the financing of political campaigns or any conference reports that are cleared for Senate action. Therefore, Members can anticipate additional rollcall votes throughout the day.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE KENNEDY FAMILY

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I want to take a moment here to congratulate the Senator from Massachusetts for winning a major sailing race this past weekend, and he did not hire a professional crew. He used his sister and son and family and came in first, which is no small feat. The Senator deserves our congratulations for that, and hopefully we can get off to a good debate this morning on vouchers with the Senator feeling so good about winning that race.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield, I thank the Senator very much for his kind comments, once in awhile, it's nice to win something around here.

I thank the Senator for his comments.

Mr. COATS. It was clearly a family affair, Mr. President, and congratulations to the entire Kennedy family for that.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume consideration of S. 1156, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1156) making appropriations for the Government of the District of Columbia and other activities chargeable in whole or in part against the revenues of said District for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Coats modified amendment No. 1249, to provide scholarship assistance for District of Columbia elementary and secondary school students.

Wyden amendment No. 1250, to establish that it is the standing order of the Senate that a Senator who objects to a motion or matter shall disclose the objection in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Graham-Mack-Kennedy amendment No. 1252, to provide relief to certain aliens who would otherwise be subject to removal from the United States.

Mack-Graham-Kennedy amendment No. 1253 (to amendment No. 1252), in the nature of a substitute.

AMENDMENT NO. 1249

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending question is the Coats amendment No. 1249. Who yields time?

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, I yield myself 3 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. COATS. I am pleased that over the last few days we have had the opportunity to debate what I think is a very vital and very important issue, particularly one that affects low-income children in the District of Columbia. We have had a number of debates on the Senate floor on the question of vouchers for students to have a choice to attend another school because the parents do not feel the school their child is in is providing the education they need to succeed.

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



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