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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:

Dear God, our Father, we begin this new day, week, and this new month profoundly moved by Your amazing grace. You are the same yesterday, today, and forever; You do not change Your attitude toward us; Your love has no limits. We all need something infinitely greater than self-esteem. We need the security and the serenity that come only from You. We report in for the duties of this day, needing a fresh infusion of delight in being alive and being assigned crucial work to do. Holy Spirit, be the wind under our wings. Lift us to new heights of effectiveness. We claim this promise: "But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles."—Isaiah 40:31. Lord, help us to soar in the jet stream of Your power. In the name of Him who is the way, the truth and the life. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 2 p.m. At 2 p.m., the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1173, the so-called ISTEAL legislation, which is the surface transportation authorization bill.

As was mentioned on last Friday, many Members had lobbied for floor consideration of this very important legislation. I know that the chairman of the committee and the distinguished Senator from West Virginia had been

urging that we move forward. Now we have the opportunity, but we are having difficulty getting Senators to come to the floor and offer amendments. We need those amendments to be offered today. I believe we have had one amendment that has been offered and accepted, but we need others. We need to make really good progress this week on this important legislation. Beginning on Wednesday or Thursday, we will also, hopefully, be able to take up the funding or financing amendments that may be offered.

We do have some items—only a few—but we have some items left on the Executive Calendar that could be considered. Therefore, a rollcall vote is possible today. I had hoped that it would be on the bill itself. I understand now it may not be. So I am looking for an Executive Calendar nomination or two that might require a vote that we can take up.

I want to make it clear to the Senators, once again, there will be votes on Mondays and there will be votes on Fridays so that we can get the ISTEAL bill done and the other important legislation we must get done in March.

Mr. President, I see Senator KYL is here to seek recognition to talk on an issue that is very important to me and the country with regard to how we deal with the situation in Iraq. So I yield the floor at this time.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGEL). There will now be a period for the transaction of morning business.

The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

Mr. KYL. Thank you, Mr. President. I thank the distinguished majority leader for recognizing me this morning to speak on a subject which he addressed the Senate on last week. I think that I may need 15 or 20 minutes. I ask unanimous consent to speak for 15 to 20 minutes this morning.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I have no objection, but I would like to be recognized at the conclusion of his remarks. I will seek recognition at such time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, I might be shorter than that time, in recognition of the desire of the Senator from West Virginia to address the Senate as well.

IRAQ

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, we are well aware that an agreement was struck this week by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, and the Iraqi Government, led by Saddam Hussein, with respect to the sites that Iraq agreed would be open to unfettered inspection at the conclusion of the gulf war. Let me give a little history first.

Remember that the United States and the allied forces were prepared to carry the battle further, perhaps even to Saddam Hussein himself, but the President of the United States judged that the battle could be called off if the Iraqi Government would agree to a series of commitments to abide by the rule of law in the future. As a result, we stopped our military campaign against the Iraqi Army, and an agreement was entered into between the Iraqi Government and the allied forces under the jurisdiction of the United States in which the Iraqi Government made some very specific promises. The key promise was not to develop any weapons of mass destruction and to destroy everything that they had.

To implement that commitment, an inspection regime was established, and the Iraqi Government agreed to allow unfettered inspection of its country in order to assure that it was abiding by the agreement not to develop and, indeed, to destroy any weapons of mass destruction that it might already have.

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



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