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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:

Dear Father, thank You for this quiet moment with You when we can receive the peace of knowing we are loved and forgiven, the healing of hurts from harbored memories, the answers to problems that seem unsolvable, and a vision for our Nation that would otherwise be beyond human expectation. To know You is our greatest desire and to serve You is life's greatest delight.

Gracious Lord of all life, forgive our imposed dichotomy between the sacred and the secular. Every person, situation, and responsibility is sacred to You because everyone and everything belongs to You. Give us a renewed awareness that all we have and are is Your gift. May we cherish the wonder of life You have entrusted to us. May our gratitude be the motive for our work today in this Senate. We want our work to be an expression of our worship of You. Therefore, we make a renewed commitment to excellence in everything we do and say. In the name of Him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, the distinguished Senator from Alaska, is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I announce that this morning's session will be one where we resume consideration of the emergency supplemental appropriations bill, with hope of concluding action on the bill during today's session.

As under a previous consent agreement, from 12:30 to 2:15 the Senate will recess for the weekly policy luncheons to meet. As a reminder to all Members, the second cloture vote on H.R. 2646, the Coverdell A+ education bill, is scheduled to occur at 5:30 p.m. if an agreement cannot be reached prior to that time. In addition, by consent, all second-degree amendments to that legislation must be filed by 4:30 p.m.

Again, it is hoped that good progress can be made on the emergency supplemental appropriations bill during today's session. All Members should contact either Senator BYRD or myself regarding this legislation if they intend to offer an amendment as the Senate attempts to complete action on this supplemental appropriations bill before the cloture vote.

Also, it is hoped that headway will be made on the Coverdell education bill. In addition, the Senate may consider any executive or legislative items cleared for action. And, on behalf of the majority leader, I thank our colleagues for their attention to his message.

### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. STEVENS. For myself, let me say this, Mr. President. If we do get cloture on the Coverdell bill, that will mean we cannot finish this bill, the supplemental, until the cloture time has expired. We believe that we are very close to having cloture on the Coverdell bill, and it is imperative that we finish this supplemental bill so that when the House passes its bill we can go immediately to conference. It is our intent to take this bill through third reading and have it ready for immediate action without any further requests, based on a unanimous-consent agreement, to send the bill to the House for conference as soon as we are aware that the House bill has been received in the Senate.

That means it is imperative, if Senators believe, as I do, that our first job

must be to assure we do not take money from the defense accounts to repay the costs of the deployment that has already been made in Bosnia, already been made in southwest Asia. If we cannot get this bill passed before April 1, that money is going to start coming out of the readiness accounts that apply to the men and women in the armed services who are still deployed in the continental U.S. and throughout areas other than Bosnia and the Iraq area.

The consequence of not passing this bill before April 1 is that the people who may have to be sent over to replace those already deployed—and we are making our rotations every 6 months—might not have the readiness and the edge that they need to go into a combat area. It is just imperative that we pass this bill before April 1. I have said that before on the floor. I again urge Senators to realize there is a timeframe problem on this bill and we do not want it to get involved in waiting for the cloture period on the A+ bill to expire.

I hope Senators will contact us. We are more than willing to consider any amendment. I hope Senators will listen to us with regard to time limits on their amendments. And we do have a pending amendment. Senator ASHCROFT is here to present his amendment. As soon as that is over, we really have a schedule of amendments ready to proceed, and I hope Senators will come as we call them and assist us by entering into time agreements. The time we will be taking off for the period of the luncheons is certain.

I remind Senators, tonight we start a new routine—the leader's seminars that are going to take place, with the distinguished former majority leader coming at 6 p.m., in the Old Senate Chamber, for Members only. A chance to listen to the former majority leader,

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



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