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Senate

(Legislative day of Wednesday, May 13, and Thursday, May 14, 1998)

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., on the expiration of the recess and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Rabbi Sidney Guthman, of V.A. Medical Center, Long Beach, CA, offered the following prayer:

Our God and God of our ancestors, we ask Your blessings for our country, for its government, for its leaders and advisors, and for all who exercise just and rightful authority.

Creator of all flesh, bless all the inhabitants of our land with Your Spirit. May citizens of all races and creeds forge a common bond in true harmony to banish all hatred and bigotry and to safeguard the ideals and free institutions which are the pride and glory of our Nation.

May this land under Your Providence be an influence for good throughout the world, uniting all people in peace and freedom and helping to fulfill the vision of Your prophet: "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they experience war anymore."—Isaiah 2:4.

Sovereign of the universe, may it be Your will that our land should be a blessing to all the inhabitants of the globe. Cause friendship and freedom to dwell among all peoples. Vouchsafe unto us, O Lord, wisdom equal to our strength and courage equal to our responsibilities, to the end that our Nation may lead the world in the advancement and fulfillment of human welfare.

May all nations become aware of their common unity and may all the peoples of the world be united in the bonds of brotherhood before You, Father of all. "All those who trust in the Lord will renew their strength."—Isaiah 40:31.

May this be our will, and let us say Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, this morning the Senate will begin a period of morning business until 10:30 a.m. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill. It is hoped that Senators will come to the floor to debate this important piece of legislation and offer amendments under short time agreements. Members should expect rollcall votes throughout the day's session in an attempt to make good progress on the defense bill.

Also, the Senate has reached time agreements with respect to the Abraham immigration bill and the WIPO copyright treaty legislation, and those bills could be considered during today's session.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWNBACK). Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business.

The able Senator from Mississippi is recognized.

CONGRATULATIONS THOMAS GERSTLE ABERNETHY

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, often we rise on the floor of the Senate to

pay tribute to a former Member of Congress or former Member of the U.S. Senate who has passed away, talking about their career and their contributions to our country.

Today I rise to pay tribute to a former Member of Congress from my State of Mississippi who will reach his 95th birthday on Saturday. Thomas Gerstle Abernethy is the last surviving member of our State's delegation of his generation that was very distinguished, indeed, and included in the House of Representatives: Jamie Whitten, Frank Smith, Arthur Winstead, John Bell Williams, and Bill Colmer. In the Senate at that time, Jim Eastland and John Stennis represented our State.

For 30 years, Thomas Abernethy was viewed as a prominent and influential Member of Congress from our State, and indeed he was. He was a member of the Agriculture Committee. He was not reticent or bashful in any way. He often spoke on the floor of the House on a wide and varied range of subjects, with intelligence, energy, and in a conscientious way to serve the interests of our State. He truly was an influence in national affairs in the Congress.

He was born in Eupora, MS, on May 16, 1903. He attended the University of Alabama and the University of Mississippi and graduated from the Law Department of Cumberland University in Lebanon, TN, in 1924. He was admitted to practice law in the State of Mississippi that same year and began practice in his hometown of Eupora in 1925. He was elected mayor of Eupora in 1927. Then in 1929 he moved to Okolona, MS. He continued to practice law there, was elected district attorney, the prosecuting attorney for several counties in that part of the State of Mississippi, in 1936. He served until he was elected to Congress in 1942. That was the 78th Congress that convened on

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



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