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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, the Reverend Pablo Gonzales, Chief of the Chaplain Service, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Huntington, WV.

We are very pleased to have you with us.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, the Reverend Pablo L. Gonzales, offered the following prayer:

Join me in prayer this morning.

Eternal God, Creator and Redeemer of our great Nation, we lift our hearts, minds, and souls to You on this day of mercy. We humble ourselves before Your omniscience and omnipresence.

Father, we confess to You this day that we are dependent on You. Without You, we can do nothing. We rely on Your grace, on Your mercy, and on Your love to direct this Nation.

We pause to take time away from our busy schedules and from all the many activities to come before Your divine presence. As we humble ourselves before You, pour upon this Senate Your divine Spirit. Allow Your Spirit to flow and give the gifts of wisdom, understanding, and discernment to rest upon the lives of these men and women. We also lift up their families who pay a price of loneliness and sacrifice to this Nation. Be with them, Lord, and keep disease and injury away from them.

Father, lead us beside the still waters. Draw us away from our own agenda and help us to see Your unique perspective. Bless this day, for all things are in Your hands. In Your Name we pray, and all say amen. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, the distin-

guished Senator from Washington, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. GORTON. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will immediately resume consideration of the energy and water appropriations bill. Senator REID and I hope that Members who wish to offer amendments to the energy and water bill will come to the floor during today's session to offer and debate their amendments under short time agreements. Therefore, rollcall votes are possible during today's session of the Senate.

The majority leader would like to remind Members that the Independence Day recess is fast approaching, and therefore the cooperation of all Members will be necessary to make progress on a number of important items, including appropriations bills, any available conference reports, the Higher Education Act, the Department of Defense authorization bill, and any other legislative or executive items that may be cleared for action.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Chair now lays before the Senate S. 2138, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2138) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Mr. REID addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Bob Perret, a congressional fellow in my office, have floor privileges during the pendency of this bill.

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

Mr. REID. Mr. President, yesterday the chairman of the Energy and Water Subcommittee and I came to the floor with this bill, the fiscal year 1999 appropriations bill, for the programs, projects, and activities of the Department of Energy, Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, and other independent agencies. I support this \$21 billion bill. It is not a perfect bill, but it is a very good bill. We worked under very extreme conditions in order to get the bill to the point that we have. This is a balanced bill. We did our best to accommodate everyone's priorities and projects.

Mr. President, on the way back to my office yesterday evening I was with some of the staff, and I asked one of the staff, "What is that you're carrying?" And I am not exaggerating, it was a folder, a big looseleaf notebook. And he said they were the requests from Members for projects in this bill.

We did our best. We did not make everyone happy. We tried to make sure that we had a balanced approach so that States could meet their needs.

We did not get all the cooperation that I would like to have had from the administration. They cut \$1.5 billion from water projects. This left us with projects unfinished, left us with projects that simply needed to go forward. So we had to rearrange this pot to the point we are now here.

So I recommend this bill to my colleagues. This is a bill that includes

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



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