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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:

Dear God, our Father, the true Source of stability in stress, we claim Isaiah's promise, that Your wisdom and knowledge will be the stability of our times.—Isaiah 33:6. Your faithfulness is our foundation as we begin this new day; You will guide and strengthen us each step of the way. Quiet our turbulent, anxious hearts so we can hear the guidance You want to impart. Fill us with profound inner peace so we may be still until we are sure of Your will.

Give us tough faith for troubled times that is rooted in confidence that You will help us untangle knotty problems, change difficult situations, and deal with troublesome pressures. We admit our need for You; we submit to direction from You; and we commit our lives to serve You. In the Name of our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

THE PRAYER

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, first, let me thank the Chaplain for a powerful and an appropriate prayer.

SCHEDULE

Mr. JEFFORDS. This morning there will be a period of debate until approximately 10:40 a.m. in relation to the higher education and Department of Defense conference reports. At the conclusion of that debate time, the Senate will proceed to three stacked votes, the

first on adoption of the higher education conference report, followed by a vote on the adoption of the Defense Appropriations conference report, followed by a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the Internet tax bill.

Following these votes, the Senate will begin a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m. and then recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow the weekly party caucuses to meet. After the caucus meetings, the Senate will resume morning business until 3:15 p.m., at which time the Senate could consider any legislative or executive items cleared for action.

The leader reminds all Members that there will be no votes this afternoon and all day Wednesday in observance of the Jewish holiday.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR—H.R. 4579

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, there is a bill at the desk that is due for its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GORTON). The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4579) to provide tax relief for individuals, families, and farming and other small businesses, to provide tax incentives for education, to extend certain expiring provisions, to amend the Social Security Act to establish the Protect Social Security Account into which the Secretary of the Treasury shall deposit budget surpluses until a reform measure is enacted to ensure the long-term solvency of the GASDI trust funds, and for other purposes.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I would object to further proceedings on the measure at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

HIGHER EDUCATION AMENDMENTS OF 1998—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now

proceed to the consideration of the conference report accompanying H.R. 6, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee on conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 6) have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses this report, signed by a majority of the conferees.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of September 25, 1998.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Time for debate on the conference report is limited to 30 minutes equally divided.

The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Pam Moran, a fellow with the Committee on Labor and Human Resources, be allowed the privileges of the floor during consideration of the conference report accompanying H.R. 6, the Higher Education Amendments of 1998.

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

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I think all you need to do is take a look at the conference report as it sits on the desk to understand the amount of work that has gone into this bill. This is an extremely important bill, and I am extremely pleased that the Senate is on the verge of sending to the President the Higher Education Amendments of 1998.

Today marks the culmination of 18 months of hard work that, for me, began with the Labor Committee's hearing in Burlington, Vermont last February.

The Higher Education Act is among the most significant statutes under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Labor and Human Resources. Since its inception in 1965, the Act has been focused

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



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