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Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, June 7, 1999)

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 Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

*For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
The Lord will be of grace and glory;
No good thing will He withhold
From those who walk upright.*

Holy Father, Source of strength, Author of the absolutes of morality, and the One to whom we are accountable, we renew our commitment to walk uprightly. We want to stand tall with steady eyes focused on Your irrevocable mandates for character and behavior. Our deepest desire is to walk with You, dear God, at Your pace, in Your timing, and toward Your goals. Help us not to run ahead of You or to lag behind. Only then can we hear what You have to say for each situation and relationship. May this be a sublime day of serenity because we have placed our hands in Your strong and guiding hand.

We join our hearts in sympathy for Mrs. Joe Biden as she grieves the death of her father, Donald Jacobs. Comfort her with Your presence and hope. Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, today the Senate will resume consideration of the defense appropriations bill with a vote ordered on the pending Grassley amendment to occur at 9:45 a.m. As a reminder, first-degree

amendments to the bill must be offered by 2:30 p.m. today. Therefore, additional amendments and votes are expected throughout today's session, with the expectation of finishing the bill this evening. Cloture was filed on the motion to proceed to the Y2K legislation yesterday. Thus, a cloture vote will take place on Wednesday.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

Mr. President, I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VOINOVICH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 1122, which the clerk will report.

The legislative assistant read as follows:

A bill (S. 1122) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Stevens (for Grassley) amendment No. 540 to reduce to \$500,000 the threshold amount for the applicability of the requirement for advance matching of Department of Defense disbursements to particular obligations.

AMENDMENT NO. 540

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 15 minutes of debate relative to the Grassley amendment No. 540 with a vote to follow thereon.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, do I control that 15 minutes?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator controls the time.

Mr. GRASSLEY. I will not use all of that time for my amendment.

First of all, as to the amendment that is pending, authored by the Senator from Iowa, I thank the Senator from Alaska for offering my amendment yesterday, and I thank the Senator from Alaska for asking for a rollcall vote on my amendment, although this amendment has been offered 5 previous years and adopted 5 previous years without a rollcall. So, personally, I do not think it is necessary to have a rollcall vote. But if the chairman of the committee and the ranking member of the committee want such a rollcall vote, that is OK with me. So I will take then just a few minutes to speak about my amendment on matching disbursements with obligations.

The American taxpayers would take for granted, they would expect, the nurturing of their tax dollars to be so well done at the Federal level that Congress would not have to pass a special amendment which would say that the Department of Defense cannot pay out \$1 of taxpayers' money without being able to match it with an invoice and contract that specified what goods or services they were buying. I hope in most of Government that is the case, but it has not been so with the Defense Department. In fact, I have been speaking for years on the subject of the tens of billions of dollars that have actually been spent, and at the time of payment, the department failed to match the particular service or goods that are being paid for with their corresponding contract.

I have had the support of the chairman of the Appropriations Committee in setting in place policies that would gradually reduce the amount of money that could be paid out without an invoice and contract to match. This policy has been incorporated in the last

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



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