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Senate

The Senate met at 9 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:

Almighty God, source of strength for those who seek to serve You, we praise You for that second wind of Your power that comes when we feel depleted. You have promised that, "As your days so shall Your strength be."

Lord, You know what these days are like before the August recess. The Senators and all who work with them feel the pressure of the work and the little time left to accomplish it. In days like these, stress mounts and our emotional reserves are strained. Physical tiredness invades effectiveness and relationships can be strained. In this quiet moment, we open ourselves to the infilling of Your strength. We admit our dependence on You, submit to Your guidance, and commit our work to You. Give us that healing assurance that You will provide strength to do what You guide and that there will always be enough time in any one of these days to do what You have planned for us to do. In Your all-powerful name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable WAYNE ALLARD, a Senator from the State of Colorado, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALLARD). The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, today the Senate resumes consideration of the Agriculture appropriations bill and, by previous order, will begin 40 minutes of debate on the dairy amendment, to be followed by a cloture vote at 9:45 a.m. Following the vote, the Senate will resume consideration of the pending Ashcroft amendment. Further amendments and votes are expected throughout today's session of the Senate with the anticipation of completing action on the bill.

For the remainder of the week, the majority leader has asked it be announced that he hopes the Senate can complete action on the tax reconciliation conference report and the Interior appropriations bill. Therefore, Senators should expect votes throughout the day and into the evenings prior to adjourning for the August recess.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume consideration of S. 1233, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1233), making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Lott (for Daschle) amendment No. 1499, to provide emergency and income loss assistance to agricultural producers.

Ashcroft amendment No. 1507 (to amendment No. 1499), to provide stability in the United States agriculture sector and to pro-

mote adequate availability of food and medicine for humanitarian assistance abroad by requiring congressional approval before the imposition of any unilateral agricultural or medical sanction against a foreign country or foreign entity. (By 28 yeas to 70 nays (Vote No. 251), Senate failed to table the amendment.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 40 minutes for debate to be equally divided between the proponents and opponents prior to the vote on a cloture motion.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I yield myself up to 5 minutes.

I rise today in strong opposition to cloture on the majority leader's motion to recommit. If it carries, the Agriculture appropriations bill will be reported back to the floor with what is known as the Jeffords dairy compact amendment and will be subject to 30 hours of continuous debate.

Now, as most in the Senate know by now, I am committed to fighting the creation, expansion, or continuation of the price-fixing cartels known as dairy compacts. They embody bad national policy, bad economic policy, bad precedent, and disastrous implications for farmers who are forced to operate outside the protectionist walls these compacts throw up.

But that is not only why I oppose the Jeffords amendment. I oppose the Jeffords amendment because it would do something much worse. It would remove the Federal Government from the milk market order system. The Jeffords compact amendment would specifically disallow USDA from spending money to administer the milk market order system. What would be the result of that? According to the Secretary of Agriculture, with whom I spoke yesterday, the result would be "chaos and confusion" in the dairy industry. USDA would have no way to enforce any price system, so processors would end up setting the price of milk. Farmers would have no recourse to USDA or anywhere else if they thought they were receiving an unfair price.

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



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