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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 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:

Lord of all life, our prayer is like breathing. We breathe in Your Spirit and breathe out praise to You. Help us to take a deep breath of Your love, peace, and joy so that we will be refreshed and ready for the day. Throughout the day, if we grow weary, give us a runner's second wind of renewed strength. What oxygen is to the lungs, Your Spirit is to our souls.

Grant the Senators the rhythm of receiving Your Spirit and leading with supernatural wisdom. In this quiet moment, we join with them in asking You to match the inflow of Your power with the outflow of energy for the pressures of the day. So much depends on inspired leadership from the Senators at this strategic time. Grant each one what he or she needs to serve courageously today. Thank You for a great day lived for Your glory. You are our Lord and Savior. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable GEORGE VOINOVICH, a Senator from the State of Ohio, 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. VOINOVICH). The Senator from Arizona is recognized.

Mr. MCCAIN. I thank the Chair.

SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, today the Senate will resume consideration of the pending amendments to the FAA bill. Senators should be aware that rollcall votes are possible today prior to the 12:30 recess in an attempt to complete action on the bill by the end of the day. As a reminder, first-degree amendments to the bill must be filed by 10 a.m. today. As a further reminder, debate on three judicial nominations took place last night and by previous consent there will be three stacked votes on those nominations at 2:15 p.m. today. Following the completion of the FAA bill, the Senate will resume consideration of the Labor-HHS appropriations bill.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

AIR TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the pending amendments to the FAA bill.

Pending:

Gorton Amendment No. 1892, to consolidate and revise provisions relating to slot rules for certain airports.

Gorton (for Rockefeller/Gorton) Amendment No. 1893, to improve the efficiency of the air traffic control system.

Baucus Amendment No. 1898, to require the reporting of the reasons for delays or cancellations in air flights.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I am sorry that I was not here yesterday when the debate began. Nevertheless, I rise in support of S. 82, the Air Transportation Improvement Act. As everyone should be aware, this is "must-pass" legislation that includes numerous provisions to maintain and improve the safety, security and capacity of our nation's airports and airways. Furthermore, this bill would make great strides in enhancing competition in the airline industry.

If Congress does not reauthorize the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will be prohibited from issuing much needed grants to airports in every state, regardless of whether or not funds have been appropriated. We have now entered fiscal year 2000, and we cannot put off reauthorization of the AIP. The program lapsed as of last Friday. Every day that goes by without an AIP authorization is another day that important projects cannot move ahead.

If we fail to reauthorize this program, we may do significant harm to the transportation infrastructure of our country. AIP grants play a critical part of airport development. Without these grants, important safety, security, and capacity projects will be put at risk throughout the country. The types of safety projects that airports use AIP grants to fund include instrument landing systems, runway lighting, and extensions of runway safety areas.

But the bill does more than provide money. It also takes specific, proactive steps to improve aviation safety. For example, S. 82 would require that cargo aircraft be equipped with instruments that warn of impending midair collisions. Passenger aircraft are already equipped with collision avoidance equipment, which gives pilots ample time to make evasive maneuvers. The need for these devices was highlighted a few months ago by a near-collision between two cargo aircraft over Kansas. Unfortunately, that was not an isolated incident.

On the aviation safety front, the bill also provides explicit AIP funding eligibility for the installation of integrated in-pavement lighting systems, and other runway incursion prevention devices, requires more types of fixed-wing aircraft in air commerce to be equipped with emergency locator transmitters by 2002, provides broader authority to the FAA to determine what circumstances warrant a criminal

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



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