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Senate

(Legislative day of Thursday, May 9, 2002)

The Senate met at 10 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable HARRY REID, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

PRAYER

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

Gracious God, as we prepare for this weekend of Mother's Day, we praise You for our own mothers and the love and care we received from them, and for all the mothers of our Nation for the influence they have in shaping the character of children. We would agree with John Ruskin when he said that the history of a nation is not to be read in its battlefields but in its homes. Thank You for mothers who know You and communicate their faith and moral values to their children. Strengthen the mothers of this land now in this time when children are faced with an unprecedented deprecation of integrity, honesty, and character. Help mothers to be the kind of people they long for their children to become. As children grow into young adults, may their mothers be their best friends and confidants in the quest for confident living. Give us all a renewed appreciation for aging mothers who need a special assurance that they did their best and are appreciated. And for those mothers who have graduated to the next stage of eternal life in heaven with You, may they be remembered with grateful bouquets in our minds and hearts.

Dear God, we pause in the work of this Senate to salute the heroines of hope who are our mothers here or in heaven. Through our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable HARRY REID led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CANTWELL). The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 10, 2002.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARIA CANTWELL, a Senator from the State of Washington, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Ms. CANTWELL thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, and with the time equally divided between the majority leader and the Republican leader.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, this morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m. At 11 a.m., we will resume consideration of the trade bill. There will be no rollcall votes today. The next rollcall vote will occur on Monday evening 6 p.m. to deal with probably the approval of the 57th judge, under the direction of Senator LEAHY—an Executive Calendar nomination. Two hours are set aside to debate that nomination Monday evening.

We hope that at 11 o'clock Senators will come and continue work on the trade bill. We have all learned from our constituents and others how important they believe this is, and we hope we can complete this legislation next week.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECENT EVENTS IN ISRAEL

Mr. GREGG. Madam President, I want to speak on a couple of subjects this morning. First is what is happening in Israel.

Obviously, it is good news that at the Church of the Nativity, which is a shrine of significant importance to all of us who are Christian—obviously, it being the birthplace of Christ—that there has been a settlement. This is a step in the right direction. It is something we can take relief in because, clearly, the church itself was in physical risk, as were the people inside and outside of the church. It would have been a terrible tragedy in this conflict

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



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between the parties in the Mideast if that shrine had been permanently damaged. So this is good news.

At the same time, of course, we should not overstate it as an event. Clearly, there is much still happening in the Mideast. Israel, in exercising its rights, will probably proceed to take further action to try to find the people who are responsible for the terrible suicide bombing that occurred just a few days ago. There may be a military action in Gaza. At least that is what is being represented. I think we as a culture—our country—have to decide how we are going to deal with this situation.

The President has made it very clear that as a result of the terrorist attacks on our Nation, we intend to track down terrorists wherever they are and we intend to bring them to justice. In addition, if there is a government that supports those terrorists, we intend to treat that government as an enemy and bring it to justice, as we did in Afghanistan. I believe this to be the absolutely appropriate authority. This is the Bush doctrine. This is the guideline that we must follow. We are in a fight, whether we like it or not, for our cultural survival, for our civilization and its survival.

The purpose of our enemy is not to take real estate or take advantage of real estate or take advantage of economic gain, as has been the tradition of war over the centuries. The purpose of our enemy is to simply kill us because we are American. In fact, if you read the books of Osama bin Laden and of Mulla Muhammad Omar, you see this all the time. The quotes simply say they call on their followers to kill Americans because they are Americans, and for no other reason, and to destroy us. That is their goal.

Well, if the Bush doctrine states clearly and appropriately that our purpose is to find terrorists and bring them to justice, and to treat terrorist governments as if they are our enemy and bring those governments down, then we cannot say to Israel that they should not follow that doctrine. Israel is equally under a terrorist attack—in fact, in many ways, more so because they are more threatened because of their physical situation.

As the suicide bombers continue to kill innocent people and cause great personal injury and try to disrupt the Nation of Israel, which is a democracy and which is an ally, we as a nation must support Israel and say: You have the right, as we also believe we have the right, to pursue these terrorists and bring them to justice and pursue governments that support these terrorists and bring them to justice.

It is very clear—I do not think there can be any question about it—that the Palestinian Authority has been a source of support for terrorist activity. We need to support Israel at this time as we would expect our allies and have expected our allies to support us during our difficult time.

It does mean there probably will be further confrontations, but it also means that at least we will be standing for a purpose which is clear and definable and which is true and correct, and that is we will not tolerate terrorism against our country or against our allies.

TRADE

Mr. GREGG. Madam President, last night an agreement was reached on this trade promotion authority, on the trade adjustment language, and the Andean trade agreement, three bills which have been bundled by the majority leader—there is a fourth one, the general tariffs agreement—that we have been trying to work through as a body. Last night, I understand the parties negotiated a comprehensive settlement to these issues involving trade and trade adjustment.

Trade promotion authority is very important legislation. We as a nation, and States such as New Hampshire specifically—and States such as the Presiding Officer's State especially—depend inordinately on our capacity to have free trade with other countries because our States, our culture has its competitive edge not in some material or commodity we produce, such as an agricultural good or oil; our economic advantage in New Hampshire is that we have people who are very bright and produce goods that are on the cutting edge.

Unfortunately, in the international economy, when you are producing cutting-edge goods, there is a tendency of other nations that cannot keep up to block those goods from coming into their country.

It always works to our advantage to open up a country's trade with us because the goods which we produce—which are on the cutting edge, which are the next generation, and always a step ahead of their competition—become available for sale in that country where we have opened barriers.

In New Hampshire, for example, almost 30 percent of the jobs are tied directly to products which are produced and sold overseas. So trade promotion authority—which is basically a vehicle to allow the administration to negotiate trade agreements, almost all of which, I presume, will allow us to enter other markets—trade promotion authority is very important legislation. This Congress has passed it year in and year out—for many years. In fact, I voted for it innumerable times when I was in the House and even had a chance to vote for it in the Senate.

Unfortunately, in the last few years, it has become tied up with other issues, but I do believe there has always been a strong bipartisan consensus to give the President trade promotion authority.

Unfortunately, as I mentioned, we have now attached to trade promotion authority other issues because people realized around here that if there is a

train leaving the station and you can put something on it, the odds are you are going to be able to pass it. These are items which might not pass under a freestanding situation. That is unfortunate because trade promotion is so important. It should not be thrown into this type of a bundle. It should be voted on separately. But the majority leader decided to bundle it.

In that bundle he has put some things which I find to have serious problems, specifically the trade adjustment language and the expansion of the entitlements under the trade adjustment language.

There are two major initiatives in this proposal which are going to significantly expand direct costs and burdens on the taxpayers of America and will open the door to policy activity in an arbitrary way, and we cannot see the unintended consequences yet, which I think are going to be significant and extraordinarily expensive.

The trade adjustment bill, which is not involved in negotiating treaties, the purpose of which is to assist people whose jobs have been impacted as a result of trade activity—in other words, if you worked for a textile mill in New Hampshire maybe 20 years ago, and that textile mill was put out of business because of trade activity, because of low-cost cotton goods coming into the country—in fact, it happened even more recently than that. There are a couple companies in the western part of New Hampshire that have gone out of business in recent years as a result of trade activity. If you work for that type of company, under the trade adjustment authority, you would have certain benefits accrued to you in the areas of training and unemployment compensation so you can have an opportunity to get back into the workforce more quickly and be less impacted by that trade activity.

What is being proposed in this bill, however, is a significant expansion to benefit those people—well-intentioned, obviously—who have been dislocated as a result of trade activities, specifically the expansion of health care coverage and a wage supplement should they not take a different job. Let's talk about both of these.

Madam President, the health care benefit means if you lose your job and it is designated a job loss as a result of trade activity, you will be able to get health insurance. Seventy percent of the cost of that will be paid by the Federal Government. You will be out of work, but you will be able to get health insurance. You will have to buy it through a pooling agreement. You will not be able to go out on the market and buy it. You will have to buy it through a pooling agreement, and you will be reimbursed through what is called a refundable tax credit. It is a tax benefit, a payment which amounts to an entitlement payment and really is not tax related at all. You will get this money and be able to buy through this pooling agreement, theoretically