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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

SENATE—Friday, June 18, 1999

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:

Gracious God, as we approach this Father's Day weekend, we praise You that You are our Heavenly Father from whom we learn what true fatherhood really means. You exemplify the perfect blend of admonition and affirmation, discipline and nurture, encouragement and inspiration.

May this Father's Day be more than a celebration honoring fathers, but a day of calling fathers to their responsibility for the spiritual and character formation of their children. In this time of absentee fathers, when 21 million children in America live without a father in their homes, we ask You to instigate a father movement.

Bless the families of our land. Stir fathers who have abdicated their responsibility. When fathers are silent about their faith, children miss the strength and courage of learning how to trust You with the ups and downs of life. O God, we need a great spiritual awakening. Thank You for waking up the fathers of the land and for a Father's Day dedicated to the recovery of the role of strong fathers to love their wives and their children. Through our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, today the Senate will immediately begin the vote on final passage of H.R. 1664, the steel, oil and gas appropriations legislation. Following that vote, the Senate will begin consideration of the State Department authorization bill under a previous consent agreement. Therefore, votes are anticipated.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGEL). The Senator from West Virginia.

KOSOVO AND SOUTHWEST ASIA EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I am authorized by the distinguished majority leader to ask for 5 minutes prior to the vote to be equally divided between Mr. NICKLES and myself.

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

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent also that other Senators may include statements in the RECORD if they so wish.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title. The legislative assistant read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1664) making emergency supplemental appropriations for military operations, refugee relief, and humanitarian assistance relating to the conflict in Kosovo, and for military operations in Southwest Asia for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Mr. VOINOVICH. Mr. President, no one cares about our Nation's steelworkers and steel industry more than I.

Since 1979, I have been at the forefront in support of Ohio's steel industry. As Mayor of Cleveland and Governor of Ohio, I pressured the Reagan and Bush Administrations to enforce the voluntary restraint agreements, VRAs, on steel and to make sure that all U.S. trade laws were enforced as soon as those agreements expired. In 1991, I set up the first Ohio Steel Industry Advisory Council as a public-private partnership to strengthen ties among the steel industry, the state of Ohio and its citizens.

And last year, when steel imports reached record levels, I was one of the first elected officials to pressure the Clinton administration to stop the ille-

gal dumping of steel in our country. Since October of 1998, I have written the President three letters urging him to take action on behalf of the steel industry.

Ohio is now the largest steel producing state in the Nation—a development that occurred during my term as governor. Many have assumed that because steel is so important to the state of Ohio that I would vote in favor of this legislation. But it is because steel is so important that I cannot vote in favor of this legislation. There are three fundamental reasons why.

First, this bill does not provide industry-wide assistance. The legislation as it has been presented to the Senate provides loan-guarantee assistance to a few steel companies, and not all companies. In fact, the vast majority of steel companies in Ohio have not approached me indicating that my vote in favor of this legislation was crucial. Some steel companies in my state are opposed to this bill.

It does not make sense that in an economy as strong as ours, with steel production in the United States at record, all-time highs, with all the construction that is occurring in our nation, and all the cars that are being made and the record unemployment, that we should pass a package that is meant to assist only a handful of companies.

Which brings me to my second point: the government should not be in the position of picking winners and losers. What this legislation does is tell those companies that may have made poor business decisions that they will be given help. Meanwhile, we ignore those companies that have done the right actions to make themselves competitive. This is not the spirit of American enterprise.

Indeed, I have to ask if we are going to make it the business of the federal government to help companies inside particular industries on a regular basis. We could be here in the Senate spending every taxpayer dollar bailing out specific businesses inside specific industries whenever we saw an economic threat or whenever we desired. Where will we draw the line? How will

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