

SENATE—Wednesday, June 30, 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:

The Psalmist gives us the secret of a truly great day:

Commit your way to the Lord and trust also in Him and He shall bring it to pass. I rest in the Lord and wait patiently for him.—Psalm 37:5,7.

Let us pray.

Blessed God, Your omniscience both comforts and alarms us. You know all about us: our strengths and weaknesses, our hopes and our hurts. So often, instead of waiting patiently for You, we try to forge ahead on our own strength. Here we are in the middle of another week. There is work to be done before the weekend. Help us to believe that what we commit to You will come to pass if You deem it best for us.

We need to experience that rest in mind and body which comes when we do what You guide us to do and then leave the results to You. Bless the Senators with the profound peace that comes from giving You their burdens and receiving Your resiliency and refreshment. May this be a great day because they, and all of us who work with them, decide to rest in Your presence and wait patiently for Your power to strengthen us. Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator ALLARD is now designated to lead the Senate in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today the Senate will immediately begin consideration of the foreign operations appropriations bill. It is hoped that significant progress can be made in an effort to complete action on the bill today. I might interject that I think that is certainly possible, maybe by early afternoon.

During today's session, the Senate may also begin consideration of any other appropriations bills on the calendar. It is the intention of the majority leader to complete action on a number of appropriations bills prior to the Fourth of July recess. Therefore, Senators can expect votes throughout the remainder of the week.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of S. 1234, which the clerk will report.

The legislative assistant read as follows:

A bill (S. 1234) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the committee was provided an allocation virtually identical to last year's bill of \$12.6 billion. Although it is \$1.8 billion below the request, I think it effectively manages our global responsibilities, and it does so within the budget caps.

For the past few years, the bill has emphasized funding in two areas—export promotion and growth in the New Independent States of the former Soviet Union. This bill sustains that commitment—in fact, expands support for export promotion by \$20 million for a total of \$785 million to the Export-Import Bank.

This year, we have added recovery and reconstruction in Southeast Europe to our priority list.

While I expect the Europeans to bear the lion's share of responsibility for reconstruction, we have concrete trade interests in regional economic recovery and security interests in promoting stability and democracy.

With funds straight lined, this becomes a zero sum game. We have to reach consensus on tradeoffs and priorities.

There is no question that this will mean reductions in other accounts—but it's time to recognize priorities. There are obvious and easy cuts that the administration can make. Just as one example, the administration has

asked for another \$70 million for Haiti after spending billions in Haiti, with little to show for it. In fact, recent press accounts report an increase in drug trafficking through Haiti, and we have failed at every turn to restore a legitimate government.

This is just one example where I think the administration could cut back in order to serve more urgent priorities.

There are others. The request from the administration is redundant in the area of peacekeeping. They have asked for funds for a global peace keeping initiative, a regional Africa peacekeeping account and the Africa Crisis Response Initiative which trains peacekeepers.

I think we can and should shift priorities. We have just waged a war in Europe, and we need to build the foundation for sustaining the peace in the aftermath of that war.

The Balkans Initiative in this bill does three things to serve what I see as our long term interests: It rids the region of Milosevic by declaring Serbia a terrorist state; we increase funding for stability and recovery; and we condition funds to Russia on total cooperation with NATO in Kosovo.

Let me elaborate.

In section 525, the bill establishes Serbia's status as a terrorist nation. With this terrorist designation, the administration cannot provide bilateral or support multilateral aid, and Belgrade is stripped of protections under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act.

This in turn, will allow Kosovars to take Milosevic to court for damages rendered during his brutal war of ethnic annihilation.

The administration has complained that this designation is inflexible and unreasonable, that Serbia is not the same as the other countries on the terrorism list because they don't sponsor groups such as Hezbollah.

Frankly, I am hard pressed to understand the difference between thugs blowing up a village with a car bomb or thugs shelling and burning a village to the ground.

The intent and the impact are the same. In both instances, innocent civilians are the targets and the victims.

The second important change in the bill affects funding. We have increased and changed the funding mix to fulfill two goals. We have tried to promote refugee confidence to return home, and relieve the pressure on the front-line states.

The administration requested \$393 million for Eastern and Central Europe which included \$55 million for Serbia and \$175 million for Bosnia.