

SENATE—Monday, July 19, 1999

The Senate met at 12:01 p.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, You have made this life but a small part of the whole of eternity. You have defeated the enemy of death and made it a transition in living. Our life here on Earth is only an inch on the yardstick of forever. You are Lord of earth and of heaven. It is in this confidence that we join this prayer with the millions of prayers for the Kennedy and Besette families. Grant them supernatural strength, comfort, and courage in their time of immense anguish over the plane accident involving John F. Kennedy, Jr., his wife Carolyn, and her sister, Lauren Besette. O dear God, we speak of these three remarkable young leaders in the present tense for, regardless of the outcome of this tragic accident, they are alive with You.

This morning, our hearts go out in profound love and caring for our friend, Senator TED KENNEDY, and the entire Kennedy family. They have endured the excruciating pain of grief so often. And yet, through it all, they have shown us the resiliency of faith in You and the uplifting strength of an indefatigable commitment to public service. No American family has given more or served this Nation more faithfully. Now we praise You for the life of John F. Kennedy, Jr.—for his winsome, winning way, for his commitment to service and, along with his wife, Carolyn, for his affirmation of life.

Now we ask You to continue to surround the families with Your everlasting arms and heal their aching hearts through Him who is the Resurrection and the Life. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

The Honorable PAT ROBERTS, a Senator from the State of Kansas, 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 PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader, Senator ROBERTS, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, today the Senate will immediately begin a period of morning business until 1 o'clock.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Following morning business, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate begin debate on the motion to proceed to the intelligence authorization bill.

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

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, as a reminder, a cloture motion on the motion to proceed to the intelligence authorization bill was filed on Friday, and that vote has been scheduled to take place at 10:30 tomorrow morning. Therefore, that cloture vote will be the first vote of this week.

For the information of all Senators, it is the intention of the majority leader to complete action on as many appropriations bills as possible prior to the August recess. Therefore, Senators should expect votes into the evenings and on Mondays and on Fridays all throughout the next 3 weeks.

I thank my colleagues for their attention. I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

(Mr. ROBERTS assumed the Chair.)

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

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, what is the parliamentary situation?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 1 o'clock with Senators permitted to speak therein for not to exceed 5 minutes each.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for an additional 10 minutes, if necessary.

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

Mr. BYRD. I thank the Chair.

BRITISH-AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, this week a delegation of British Members of Parliament will visit the Senate in the latest in a long line of biennial exchanges

fostered by the British-American Parliamentary Group. My good and true and long-time friend, Senator STEVENS, and I serve as co-chairs for the American delegation. These exchanges date back to the aftermath of World War II, when both sides recognized the value of maintaining the kind of close working relationship that can only be realized through personal interaction and camaraderie. After graciously hosting Senator STEVENS and me in 1997, when we visited London and York with several other Senators, Lord Jopling later this week will arrive in Washington with Members from the House of Lords and the House of Commons. Lord Michael Jopling is a former Member of the House of Commons. This weekend, I am pleased that the group will be meeting at the famous Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, to discuss defense, trade, and environmental issues of concern to our great nations.

As an avid student of history, particularly Roman and Greek history, Persian history, English history, and American history, I remind all who will listen that those roots are essential in understanding the development of the American Constitution. In the Senate chamber, and while walking through the halls of our columned Capitol building, I am daily reminded of the unique and enduring legacy bequeathed to Americans by our English, Scot, Welsh, and Irish ancestors. The Minton tiles paving the corridors as well as the very language of debate which rings across the Senate floor in sonorous spoken cadences recall this powerful legacy. Even the physical being of the Capitol building itself—its white marble and sunny sandstone gleaming amid graceful stands of stately trees and curving drives—owes a nod of thanks to informal and inviting landscaping design pioneered in Britain.

And, less visible but more pervasive, the strong skeleton of government and law in the United States carries the indelible genetic markers of British origin—its DNA shaped by centuries of struggle between monarchs and parliaments before mutating into a new form under the guidance of the British citizens that became our Founding Fathers. Though certainly not an exact clone, like Dolly the sheep, the American bicameral legislature and our legal system based upon British Common Law bear witness to this sturdy inheritance.

From the defining moment at Runnymede in 1215, when the English barons forced King John to give his assent to