

SENATE—Tuesday, July 20, 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:

O God of history, You have been the guiding light for the Senate for 210 years. We trust You to lead us forward today. In the midst of the debate over crucial issues, we need Your divine intervention and inspiration. Give the Senators strength to communicate their perception of truth with mutual respect and without rancor. May they seek Your guidance in the exercise of the essence of democracy in vital debate. Help them to know that speaking the truth as they see it will contribute to a greater understanding than any one person could achieve alone. When we trust You, things go more smoothly and work gets done with greater excellence. Whatever happens to or around us today, we know we can count on You for strength in any stress and courage in any crises. We gratefully remember times when Your guidance brought consensus out of conflict and creative decisions out of discord. Thank You for the new page in the history of the Senate that will be written today.

Gracious Father, in addition to our continued prayers for the Kennedy family, today as a Senate we mourn the death of Kenneth C. Foss who worked with the Republican Policy Committee. We praise You for his brief life and his great leadership. In the name of our Lord. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Senator VOINOVICH is now designated to lead the 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 MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator LOTT of Mississippi, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Chair.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Today the Senate will resume debate on the motion to proceed

to the intelligence authorization bill with the cloture vote occurring at 10:30 a.m. Following the vote, Senator SMITH of New Hampshire will be recognized to make a motion to discharge from the Finance Committee S.J. Res. 28 regarding the trade status with Vietnam. Therefore, Senators can expect an additional vote prior to the weekly party caucus meetings. The Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 so that the party conferences can meet and have lunch. Senator SMITH will again be recognized under a privileged resolution at 2:15 to offer a second motion to discharge from the Finance Committee S.J. Res. 27 regarding trade status with China. There will be 1 hour of debate on the motion with the vote occurring at approximately 3:15 p.m. Senators may also expect further action on the intelligence authorization bill or any appropriations bills on the calendar during today's session.

INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION

Mr. President, there was debate yesterday on the intelligence authorization bill. Senator SHELBY, the chairman of the Intelligence Committee, and Senator KERREY, the ranking member, spoke on the importance of intelligence authorization. They have been doing good work together in a bipartisan way, as they should on matters of intelligence. This is a very important bill, one we should move forward as expeditiously as we can. Of course, the issue that is still being debated in connection with this intelligence authorization bill is, how do we deal with reorganizing the Department of Energy so we can stop the leaks that have been occurring at our labs.

There was a report in the papers just this morning that while some progress has been made in some areas, the necessary actions to stop these leaks and make sure they don't happen in the future haven't even begun. Senator DOMENICI, Senator KYL, and Senator MURKOWSKI have done real good work in this area. This should be a bipartisan solution where we get the focus at the Department of Energy rearranged in such a way that there is direct reporting so we have a quasi-autonomous agency within the Department of Energy. I hope we can still find a way to get this done because the American people understand that real damage has already been done. We should make sure, at the minimum, that it will not continue in the future.

I thank my colleagues for their attention. I yield the floor.

Mrs. BOXER addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VOINOVICH). The Senator from California.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mrs. BOXER. I would like to take about 5 minutes to pay tribute to Congressman George Brown and to John F. Kennedy, Jr., and those who perished with him. I wonder if I could take that 5 minutes at this point. I ask unanimous consent to do that.

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, we have 1 hour this morning to debate a very serious proposition. We are prepared to do that. The time is equally divided. I would have no objection to the Senator from California taking the time from the Democratic side, but we have at least 30 minutes of conversation on our side that we want to use. We need to have a vote at 10:30 today.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

There is ordered to be 1 hour of debate equally divided between the Senator from New Mexico, Mr. DOMENICI, and the Democratic leader, Mr. DASCHLE, or their designees prior to the cloture vote.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from California be allowed to proceed for not more than 5 minutes and that time not be taken out of the hour previously agreed to, delaying the 1-hour debate just a few minutes, and the vote would occur at 10:40 instead of 10:30.

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

The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. I thank the Chair. I thank the majority leader for his graciousness.

A NATION'S LOSS

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, Californians have been deeply saddened and moved by a number of losses we have faced. One involves the death of the senior member of our California Democratic delegation, George Brown, who was a beloved Congressman on both sides of the aisle. As a matter of fact, one of the Republicans in the House said on his passing, if everyone was like George Brown, we would not need to go on retreats to find out how to get along better with one another.

George Brown was that kind of person. George was a man of great compassion, of great reason. He was consistent. He never changed his views according to the polls. He was a mentor