

**SENATE—Tuesday, August 3, 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, all that we have and are is the result of Your goodness. We dedicate this day to counting our blessings and naming them one by one all through the hours of this day. We praise You for the gift of life. You have given us intellect to know You, emotions to praise You, and determination to do Your will. You have blessed us with loved ones, families, and friends. And what a privilege it is to live in this free land of opportunity. Today, help us recount the privileges that we have as citizens and leaders of this Nation.

Father, we also want to praise You for the courage and the strength You provide to face the challenges You give us as individuals and as a Senate. Thank You for problems that define the next steps of what You want us to do. You have shown us that problems are only the flip side of an undiscovered answer. Our problems give us an opportunity to discover Your power.

With everything within us, we praise, thank, and glorify You, our God, Savior, Lord, Provider, and Friend. Amen.

**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 ACTING MAJORITY LEADER**

The **PRESIDING OFFICER** (Mr. VOINOVICH). The Senator from Nebraska, Mr. HAGEL, is recognized.

**SCHEDULE**

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader I wish to announce that today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 10:30 a.m. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the pending disaster relief amendment to the Agriculture Appropriations Act. It is hoped that the Senate will be able to dispose of those amendments today at a reasonable hour. As a reminder, the Senate will recess today from 12:30 to 2:15 so that the weekly con-

ferences can meet. As a further reminder, a cloture motion on the dairy compact amendment was filed on Monday. Therefore, under the provisions of rule XXII, that cloture vote will take place 1 hour after the Senate convenes tomorrow, unless an agreement is made by the two leaders.

Prior to the August recess, it is the intention of the leader to complete action on the Agriculture appropriations bill, the Interior appropriations bill, and it is also hoped that the conference report to the tax reconciliation bill will be available for consideration.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

**RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME**

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

**MORNING BUSINESS**

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 10:30 a.m. Senators are permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

Under the previous order, the Senator from Nebraska or his designee is recognized to speak for up to 30 minutes.

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I yield such time as I may require.

**AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS**

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, over the weekend in Nebraska, I met with a number of agricultural producers about the current prices in American agriculture. Over the last 3 weeks, my staff and I have spoken to over 100 agricultural producers in the State of Nebraska—hog producers, cattle producers, grain producers; and then the second rim, the outer rim representing the agricultural community—bankers, implement dealers, automobile dealers. All had a consistent theme as to what we must do to direct our attention and our effort to dealing with this crisis in America.

As we begin debate today on the fiscal year 2000 Agriculture appropriations bill and on the emergency appropriation for agriculture, we should keep in mind some important dynamics about American agriculture. Leaders of both parties in the Senate committed last week to including in the fiscal year 2000 Agriculture appropriations bill an emergency funding measure to provide the short-term assist-

ance needed for our agricultural producers, and that assistance should include increasing the market transition payments—I am confident we will see legislation to do that—lifting the caps on loan deficiency payments, and additional funding for crop insurance. I know that part of Freedom to Farm in 1996 was the commitment to America's agricultural producers to, in fact, reform crop insurance. We are on our way in that area, but we have not yet arrived at that reform.

Crop insurance is a very key dynamic to the future of American agriculture. The emergency appropriations bill should include relief for livestock producers, and I am confident we will see that in both of the bills that will be presented today, plus other emergency measures.

As we address this immediate crisis, we must continue to work on the long-term priorities. The perspective is clear. We have an immediate problem, and we will address that immediate problem. But let us not lose sight of the long-term priorities for American agriculture.

To do that we must focus on the demand side of the equation. When I talk about the demand side of the equation, I am talking about trade. I am talking about trade policies that encourage market development and the opening of new markets for our producers. We must continue to work for trade and sanctions reform—another critical component of the 1996 farm bill. I regret to say that Congress and the President have not done a very good job in the area of trade and sanctions reform. We are working on it, but we are a long way from being where we should be.

For example, it is estimated that current unilateral sanctions cost the U.S. economy more than \$20 billion each year. Who do we penalize? Who do we hurt? We hurt ourselves. We must stop using agricultural policy as a foreign policy weapon. Instead, we must extend a strong message to our customers and competitors around the world that U.S. agricultural producers are consistent and reliable suppliers of quality and plentiful agricultural products.

We need fast track authority for the President in order to reach trade agreements that will open more markets to our agricultural goods and allow our producers to compete on a level playing field.

Today we stand in a situation that is unprecedented in the last 25 years. This President of the United States has been without fast track negotiating authority since 1994. Obviously, there has