

SENATE—Tuesday, September 21, 1999

The Senate met at 2:15 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore, Father Paul Lavin, pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church on Capitol Hill, Washington, DC, will now lead us in prayer.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Dr. Paul Lavin, offered the following prayer:

In the words of Saint Paul's letter to the Romans we hear:

For by the grace given to me I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than one ought to think, but to think soberly, each according to the measure to faith that God has apportioned. For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another. Since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given us, let us exercise them: if prophecy, in proportion to the faith; if ministry, in ministering, if one is a teacher, in teaching; if one exhorts, in exhortation; if one contributes, in generosity; if one is over others, with diligence; if one does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Let us pray.

Direct, O Lord all our actions by Your inspiration and carry them on by Your assistance so that every prayer and action may begin in You and by You be happily ended. Glory and praise to You for ever and ever. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JAMES INHOFE, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma, 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. INHOFE). The Senator from Utah, Mr. BENNETT, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 5:30 p.m. Under a previous order, the time between 4:15 and 5:30 is equally divided between Senators HATCH and TORRICELLI.

DIVISION OF TIME

I now ask unanimous consent that the time be equally divided between Senators HATCH and LEAHY.

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

Mr. BENNETT. There will be at least one vote on a motion to invoke cloture on the bankruptcy bill, with the possibility of a second vote on a motion to invoke cloture on the judicial nomination of Ted Stewart.

Following the votes, the Senate may begin consideration of the Department of Defense authorization conference report. Under the order, there are 2 hours of debate which may begin tonight, with a vote occurring tomorrow morning.

For the remainder of the week, the Senate will begin consideration of the HUD-VA appropriations bill and complete action on the Interior appropriations bill.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 17) to amend the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to require the President to report to Congress on any selective embargo on agricultural commodities, to provide a termination date for the embargo, to provide greater assurances for contract sanctity, and for other purposes.

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. President, I object to further proceedings on the bill at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will go to the calendar.

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 5:30 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Under the previous order, the time until 3:15 shall be under the control of the Senator from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN, or his designee.

Who seeks recognition?

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, will the Senator from Iowa yield for a moment to allow me to propound a unanimous consent request?

Mr. HARKIN. I yield.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 625

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that on the bankruptcy bill which is before the Senate all first-degree amendments must be filed by 3:15 p.m. and second-degree amendments be filed by 5:30 p.m. My understanding is both the majority and minority have cleared this unanimous consent request.

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

The Senator from Iowa.

EDUCATION FUNDING

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, on January 6 of this year, the majority leader stood on the Senate floor and told us that education would be a high priority for the Senate. This is exactly what he said:

Education is going to be a central issue this year. Democrats say it is important and it will be a high priority. Republicans say it will be a high priority.

I am sorry to say Republicans cannot make that claim today. I want to take a few moments this afternoon, along with some of my colleagues, to assess where education is on the leadership's priority list.

We have less than 7 legislative days, and that is counting Mondays and Fridays—we do not do much on Mondays and Fridays—before the end of the fiscal year. There is one Education bill that must be enacted, and that is the Education appropriations bill.

Despite proclamations that education will be a top priority, the Senate has been working on all but 1 of the 13 appropriations bills. We have done at least some work on 12 appropriations bills. We have 1 left. Dead last: education. This is a list of all of the appropriations bills:

Military construction, No. 1 on the list—the President has already signed that—leg branch; Treasury; District of Columbia; Transportation; Defense; energy and water; Commerce-Justice-State; Interior; Agriculture; and VA—