

**SENATE—Tuesday, September 28, 1999**

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Rev. Dr. John Yates II, Falls Church Baptist Church. Incidentally, he is the pastor of Holly Richardson who works with me and of whom I am so proud.

We are glad to have you with us.

**PRAYER**

The guest Chaplain, Rev. Dr. John Yates II, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Our Father in heaven, You are the King Eternal. You rule over all. Your light divides the day from night.

Thank You for the gift of this new day. Give us a spirit of gratitude and wonder at Your creation. Drive from us all wrong desires; guide us in the way of peace and justice that, having done Your will with cheerfulness during the day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give You thanks and rest in Your care.

We pray today for statesmen, leaders, and rulers everywhere and especially for the Members of this United States Senate and their fellow workers.

May they be quiet in spirit, clear in judgment, able to understand the issues that face them. May they think often of the people on whose behalf they speak and act. May these Senators remember You. May they remember that keeping Your laws bring us only good and happiness. Grant them patience; grant them courage; grant them foresight and great faith. In their anxieties, be their security; in their opportunities, be their inspiration. By their plans and their actions, may Your kingdom come; may Your will be done.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Honorable MIKE CRAPO, a Senator from the State of Idaho, 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 distinguished Senator from Idaho is recognized.

**SCHEDULE**

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, the Senate will be in a period of morning busi-

ness until 12:30 p.m. unless an agreement is reached for the consideration of the energy and water appropriations conference report. It is hoped the Senate will begin that conference report at approximately 11 a.m. for 45 minutes of debate. If that agreement is reached, Senators may anticipate that the first rollcall vote will occur at approximately 11:45 a.m.

Following the party conference meetings, the Senate may begin consideration of the digital millennium legislation or any conference reports or appropriations bills available for action while waiting for the continuing resolution from the House. Therefore, Senators may anticipate votes throughout the day.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

**RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME**

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO). Under the previous order, 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 12:30 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for not to exceed 5 minutes each.

Under the previous order, the time until 10:30 a.m. shall be under the control of the Senator from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN, or his designee.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the Chair.

**FACING THE DEADLINE**

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we are facing a deadline this week—October 1. Every family in America knows about deadlines: April 15, you had better get your taxes in. A deadline is coming for shopping for Christmas, for Hanukkah. We are faced with many deadlines. October 1 is another deadline; that is our fiscal year. If Congress does nothing else during the course of a session, we are supposed to pass spending bills so when the fiscal year starts, the agencies know how much money they have and can go about the business of conducting their affairs and managing the Government.

Now, I will have to be honest with you; in the 17 years I have been on Capitol Hill, in the House and Senate, rarely, if ever, has any party in control of the Senate or the House really met that deadline, had everything in place

by October 1. Sometimes it takes a little extra time to put it together. But I would have to tell you that in my experience on the Hill, I can never recall a time when we reached October 1, as we will this week, with such chaos. There appears to be no plan in place, no conversation between the leaders on Capitol Hill and the White House, and we will be asked today to vote on what is called a continuing resolution; that is, an extension of about 3 weeks so we can continue the business of Government while the leaders of the House and Senate get down to the business of leading. I hope that happens because, frankly, to date, we have seen precious little leadership when it comes to the important issues facing our country.

I am going to yield the floor at this point to my colleague from the State of Washington, Mrs. MURRAY, who is a member of the Labor-HHS appropriations subcommittee, a very important subcommittee when it comes to spending money for education. She comes to the Senate floor speaking not only as a Senator from Washington but as a former classroom teacher. So her perspective on education and what we are doing to either meet our obligations or fail to meet them is especially important.

At this point, I reserve the remainder of my time and yield to the Senator from Washington.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington is recognized.

Mrs. MURRAY. I thank the Chair and my colleague from Illinois for defining for us what our challenge is in this week as we reach the October 1 deadline and our commitment to make sure the budget is enacted and appropriations bills are passed. Clearly, we are going to be unable to do that.

**LABOR-HHS APPROPRIATIONS**

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, what is most appalling to me is that we have left the Labor, Health, and Human Services bill to the very last. This bill is extremely important to every family in this country. It funds everything from health care to NIH research to education, key programs that we are responsible for at the Federal level, being a partner in making sure every child in this country gets an education so they can be successful.

Last night, we referenced the Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and Human Services. We were unable to offer any amendments, and I was disappointed in that. I was pleased that the Republicans put forward a budget that does appear—and I use the word