

SENATE—Friday, October 29, 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, we need You. The Senate schedule is full of debate, deliberations, and decisions. There are votes to cast, and inevitably the Senators and their staffs will deal with winning and losing. Lord of the loose ends, grant us Your strength. May we do all we can for everyone we can. Help us to keep our relationships in good working order, oiled with the lubricants of mutual esteem and trust. Particularly we ask You to bless the working relationship between the parties. Thank You for enabling negotiation without negativism, compromise without contradiction of truth. Keep the Senators calm as they trust You and relaxed as You replenish their reserves. You have promised never to leave nor forsake us. We are grateful for the assurance of Your presence, dependable at all times, available whatever our needs, bracing when we need correction, and inspiring when we need courage. So Lord, lead on as we press on. In Your all powerful name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MIKE DEWINE, 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. DEWINE). The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will begin 30 minutes of debate on H.R. 434, the African-CBI trade bill. By previous consent, the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote on the Roth substitute amendment at 10 a.m.

ORDER TO FILE SECOND-DEGREE AMENDMENTS

Under the provisions of rule XXII, I now ask unanimous consent that Senators have until 10 a.m. today in order to file second-degree amendments to the substitute.

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

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, following the vote, the Senate will continue consideration of the African trade bill or any other legislative or executive business. The Senate may also begin consideration of the conference report to accompany the D.C./Labor-HHS bill during today's session.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Also under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 434, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 434) to authorize a new trade and investment policy for sub-Saharan Africa.

Pending:

Lott (for Roth/Moynihan) amendment No. 2325, in the nature of a substitute.

Lott amendment No. 2332 (to amendment No. 2325), of a perfecting nature.

Lott amendment No. 2333 (to amendment No. 2332), of a perfecting nature.

Lott motion to commit with instructions (to amendment No. 2333), of a perfecting nature.

Lott amendment No. 2334 (to the instructions of the motion to commit), of a perfecting nature.

Lott (for Ashcroft) amendment No. 2340 (to amendment No. 2334), to establish a Chief Agricultural Negotiator in the Office of the United States Trade Representative.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 30 minutes of debate equally divided between the two leaders.

The Senator from Minnesota.

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I might ask my colleague to yield 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLLINGS. I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished Senator from Minnesota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I thank the Chair and I thank my colleague from South Carolina. I thank him for all his fine work in this Chamber.

Mr. President, I want to divide my remarks in 5 minutes and deliver them in two parts. In the first part, I will talk about the African-Caribbean trade bill. I want to repeat two points I made during the course of this debate. There are some very good Senators who in very good conscience can have different viewpoints on this legislation.

For my own part, the first point I will make is that I actually do not be-

lieve this is about whether or not we as a nation are in an international economy; we are. And I don't think it is about whether or not we are actively involved in trade; we are. It is more about the terms of the trade. I do believe it is a flaw, a fundamental flaw, of this legislation that, again, we have trade legislation that does not have any enforceable labor protections or enforceable environmental protections. At the very minimum, it would seem to me we have to get serious about having clear language in these agreements which gives people the right in countries with which we are trading to be able to organize and bargain collectively for themselves and their families. The same thing can be said for the environment, the same thing can be said for child labor, and the same thing can be said for human rights as a part of these labor agreements.

I think basically what this African and Caribbean trade agreement says is two things. It says to workers, to wage earners in our country: If you should decide you want to organize to be able to bargain collectively and get a better wage and better working conditions for yourself so you can do better for your family, then just understand that these companies, these businesses, will just go to other parts of the world where they don't have to deal with you at all. They don't have to deal with the right of the workers to be able to organize. What it says to poor people and what it says to working people in African countries and Caribbean countries is, the way you get the investment is to be willing to work for jobs that pay less than 30 cents an hour, or whatever the case might be, because that is the only way it is going to happen because there are in these agreements no protections, no enforceable labor code—child labor, right to organize, right to bargain collectively—no enforceable environmental code. That is the first point.

The second point I will make about this legislation is that I think it is a terrible message to send as we move to the WTO gathering in Seattle. I am in profound disagreement with the administration on this. They think we should pass this and that would be important. To me, I hear the administration, Democrats—I am a Democrat—saying to labor, and saying to environmentalists, and saying to nongovernmental organizations, and saying to a whole lot of other people: Listen, we have a real chance at this WTO gathering of moving toward enforceable labor codes, enforceable environmental protection. Well, if you can't do it in a bilateral