

SENATE—Wednesday, November 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 Father, giver of every good gift for our growth as Your people, we ask for health and strength only that we may serve You. You alone know what is good for us. Therefore, grant us only what is best for us. We have no other purpose than to spend our days seeking and doing Your will.

We acknowledge our utter dependence on You. All that we have and are we have received from You. You sustain us day by day and moment by moment. We deliberately empty our minds and our hearts of anything that does not glorify You. We release to You any pride, self-serving attitudes, or willfulness that may have been harbored in our hearts. We ask You to take from us anything that makes it difficult not only to love but to like certain people. May our relationships reflect Your initiative, love, and forgiveness.

We commit to You the work of this day. Fill this Chamber with Your presence and each Senator with Your power so that whatever is planned or proposed may bring our Nation closer to Your righteousness in every aspect of our society. You are our Lord and Savior. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable WAYNE ALLARD, a Senator from the State of Colorado, 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 Senator from Colorado is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today the Senate will resume consideration of the CBI/African trade bill. Amendments to the bill are expected to be offered during the postcloture debate, and therefore Senators can expect votes throughout the day. The Senate may also begin consideration of the conference report to accompany the financial services modernization bill during today's session of the Senate. It

is hoped the Senate can complete action on the African trade bill and the financial services conference report by tomorrow's session. It is also still possible an agreement can be reached regarding the bankruptcy reform bill so the Senate can consider that legislation prior to the impending adjournment.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will now read the bill for the second time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1883) to provide for the application of measures to foreign persons who transfer to Iran certain goods, services or technology, and for other purposes.

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the rule, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ALLARD). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAMS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2360

(Purpose: To establish trade negotiating objectives for the United States for the next round of World Trade Organization negotiations that enhance the competitiveness of the United States agriculture, spur economic growth, increase farm income, and produce full employment in the United States agricultural sector)

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD], for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY, proposes an amendment numbered 2360.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following new section:

SEC. . . . AGRICULTURE TRADE NEGOTIATING OBJECTIVES AND CONSULTATIONS WITH CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) United States agriculture contributes positively to the United States balance of trade and United States agricultural exports support in excess of 1,000,000 United States jobs;

(2) United States agriculture competes successfully worldwide despite the fact that United States producers are at a competitive disadvantage because of the trade distorting support and subsidy practices of other countries and despite the fact that significant tariff and nontariff barriers exist to United States exports; and

(3) a successful conclusion of the next round of World Trade Organization negotiations is critically important to the United States agricultural sector.

(b) OBJECTIVES.—The agricultural trade negotiating objectives of the United States with respect to the World Trade Organization negotiations include—

(1) immediately eliminating all export subsidies worldwide while maintaining bona fide food aid and preserving United States market development and export credit programs that allow the United States to compete with other foreign export promotion efforts;

(2) leveling the playing field for United States producers of agricultural products by eliminating blue box subsidies and disciplining domestic supports in a way that forces producers to face world prices on all production in excess of domestic food security needs while allowing the preservation of non-trade distorting programs to support family farms and rural communities;