

## SENATE—Wednesday, February 24, 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:

Dear God, we are astonished that You have chosen to do Your work through us and to use prayer to reorient our minds around Your guidance for the issues before this Senate. We exclaim with the psalmist, "You are my rock and my fortress; therefore, for Your name's sake, lead me and guide me."—Psalm 31:3. Suddenly we see our prayer for guidance in a whole new perspective. Prayer is not just for our success, but for Your sake; it is the way You orient us toward Your plans that will glorify Your name. We seek Your strength, not only for what we want, but for guidance to want what You think is best. You shape our thinking, direct our actions, create deeper trust in one another, so we can get on with Your agenda for America. You are the Instigator of prayer, the Inspiration for innovative thinking, the Initiator of boldness, so that we can live and lead with courage. May this day be filled with magnificent moments of turning to You, so that we may move forward for Your glory and not our own. For Your name's sake. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from Virginia is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will resume consideration of S. 4, the Soldiers', Sailors', Airmen's and Marines' Bill of Rights Act of 1999. There will be a short period of debate until 9:45 a.m., at which time the Senate will proceed to two back-to-back rollcall votes. The first vote will be on or in relation to a Sarbanes-Warner amendment regarding civilian pay, followed immediately by a vote on or in relation to a Cleland amendment regarding thrift savings.

Following those two votes, the Senate will continue consideration of S. 4, with the intention of completing action on the bill by, I would hope—there is even the possibility, and I would like to have the views of my distinguished ranking member—maybe the middle of the day. We are getting excellent cooperation from all Senators on this matter. We are quickly going through

the amendments and I will momentarily address the amendments. I believe it could be done by sometime this afternoon. Therefore, Members should expect rollcall votes throughout the deliberation on this bill.

Again, the first vote is to begin at 9:45.

### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S.J. RES. 11

Mr. WARNER. There is one piece of housekeeping before we begin. There is a joint resolution at the desk due for its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 11) prohibiting the use of funds for military operations in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) unless Congress enacts specific authorization in law for the conduct of those operations.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, on behalf of the leader, I object to further proceedings on this matter at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution will be placed on the Calendar.

### SOLDIERS', SAILORS', AIRMEN'S AND MARINES' BILL OF RIGHTS ACT OF 1999

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the bill.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Sarbanes/Warner Amendment No. 19, to express the sense of Congress that there should continue to be parity between the adjustments in the compensation of members of the uniformed services and the adjustments in the compensation of civilian employees of the United States.

Cleland Amendment No. 6, to permit members of the Ready Reserve to contribute to the Thrift Savings Plan for compensation attributable to their service in the Ready Reserve.

Mr. WARNER. Now, Mr. President, with regard to the amendments, we are working out a number of these amendments. As I said, I am optimistic that this matter can be completed, hopefully by early afternoon.

The possible amendments still remaining are:

An amendment regarding Guard and Reserve participation in the Thrift Savings Plan, by Mr. CLELAND—that is scheduled for a vote, so that will soon be disposed of;

Modify the MGIB to permit reservists to transfer benefits to family members, Mr. JEFFORDS;

Permit RC to receive lump sum GI bill payments for certain courses, Mr. JEFFORDS;

Civilian pay raise of 4.8 percent; that is the Warner-Sarbanes; we will be voting on that momentarily;

Expand use of the MGIB to include prep for college and grad school entrance exams, Mr. ROCKEFELLER;

Make food stamps and WIC available to soldiers overseas—that is, soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines overseas—Mr. HARKIN;

Sense of the Senate re: 2-month extension of the tax-filing deadline for uniformed services personnel stationed outside the United States, Mr. COVERDELL;

Sense of the Senate regarding processing of claims for veterans benefits, Mr. BINGAMAN;

Sense of the Senate regarding the possibility that provisions of S. 4 may be reconsidered during the authorization or appropriations process by my distinguished colleague, the ranking member here, Mr. LEVIN;

Technical change to section 202, Senators WARNER and ALLARD.

Now, I think that concludes it. There were several amendments by the Senator from Missouri, Mr. ASHCROFT; I have discussed those with him. And another one by Mr. JEFFORDS, and another one by Mr. LEVIN—I will be discussing those amendments. I think it is not likely they will be brought up.

At this time, perhaps my distinguished colleague, the comanager of the bill, will have a few comments?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, let me share the optimism of my friend from Virginia that we will be able to complete the work on this bill by early afternoon. I see no reason why we should not be able to do that. I hope, in fact, that we can.

We have a little time this morning before we start voting, which we were going to divide between the proponents of the amendments, if they would like some of these few minutes remaining. I know the manager will join me.

Mr. WARNER. The Senator is correct. I see a Member on the floor, a distinguished member of our committee, the Senator from Georgia. At the time he desires recognition, it will be given.

Mr. President, before the Senator from Georgia proceeds to give his remarks, perhaps we could call on another member of the committee, the chairman of the Manpower Subcommittee, Senator ALLARD, in hopes that he can talk a little bit about the hearing that the subcommittee will