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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 105th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

SENATE—Monday, April 12, 1999

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, ultimate Ruler of this world, Lord of all nations and the One to whom all leaders are accountable for the realms of responsibility entrusted to them by You, we return to the work of this Senate in the midst of an international crisis. Like Senates before us in history, we face soul-sized issues with profound humanitarian implications. Bless the Senators as they seek to determine the extent of our Nation's further involvement in finding a solution to the seemingly insolvable problems caused by the bloody civil war in Kosovo. O Dear God, we come to You for guidance and then for the strength and fortitude to act with courage. You are Lord of Serbs and Kosovars, and the nations of NATO. Intervene to bring an end to the merciless persecution, the suffering of homeless refugees, the hate-motivated slaughter of people. Cleanse from Slobodan Milosevic's heart the evil practice of ethnic cleansing in Kosovo. And since the United States now is so strategically involved in this crisis, show the Senators and the administration the way to finish the work that has been begun in a just a righteous way that brings peace to that troubled part of the world. In Your all-powerful name. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

Mr. HAGEL. I thank the Chair.

SCHEDULE

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 2 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak up to 10 minutes each. Following morning busi-

ness, the Senate may consider any legislative or executive items cleared for action. The leader has announced that there will be no rollcall votes during today's session. So any votes ordered today will be postponed to occur on Tuesday at a time to be determined by the two leaders. It is hoped that the conferees on the budget resolution will be able to complete their work early this week so the Senate may begin consideration of the budget conference report and have a final vote by Thursday.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 2 p.m.

MEASURES PLACED ON CALENDAR—S. 754 and S. 755

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I understand there are now two bills at the desk due for their second readings.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 754) to designate the Federal building located at 310 New Bern Avenue in Raleigh, North Carolina, as the "Terry Sanford Federal Building".

A bill (S. 755) to extend the period for compliance with certain ethical standards for Federal prosecutors.

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I will object to further consideration of these measures at this time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bills will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. HAGEL. I thank my colleagues, Mr. President, for their attention. Since there are no other Senators in the Chamber, I note the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

(The remarks of Mr. THURMOND pertaining to the introduction of S. 763 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

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

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Anthony Blaylock and Shannon Hamm be granted the privilege of the floor for the day.

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

KOSOVO

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, as the Senate reconvenes from a 2-week Easter recess, I am sure a number of my colleagues will be coming to the floor to discuss the challenges and the difficulties and the circumstances that exist now with respect to the action being taken in Kosovo. I am one of those who voted to support airstrikes in Kosovo. We voted to give the President the authority to commit U.S. troops and airplanes to conduct airstrikes only, along with our NATO allies, to respond to the ethnic cleansing and the genocide that has been occurring in Kosovo.

I believe it is in our national interest to respond in these circumstances when we see genocide being committed. When we see ethnic cleansing on the scale as has been committed in Kosovo, we have a responsibility as a community of nations to respond to it, to try

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a member of the Senate on the floor.