

SENATE—Monday, May 17, 1999

(Legislative day of Friday, May 14, 1999)

The Senate met at 12 noon, on the expiration of the recess, 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, as we begin this new week, we make a solemn declaration of dependence. We depend on You for wisdom to confront soul-sized issues, strength to take the pressure of the busy week ahead, and patience to deal with our differences.

Sovereign of our beloved Nation, we are profoundly concerned about our culture. We ask You to bless and strengthen the families of our land. Today we want to praise You for mothers and fathers who take seriously their immense responsibility for the character development of their children. Especially we thank You for parents who exemplify the qualities and virtues they seek to engender in their children. We renew our commitment to the families You have given us and to the strategic role of the family in our Nation. Help us live our faith and communicate Your love, absolutes, and justice to the children. Through our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator LOTT, is recognized.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Chair.

THANKING THE CHAPLAIN

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Chaplain for, as usual, a very appropriate and wonderful prayer.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Today, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 1 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. It is expected the Senate will resume debate on the juvenile justice bill this afternoon. Senators who have amendments on the list with respect to the juvenile justice bill should be prepared to offer their amendments today. I understand at least three Senators are prepared to offer one or more amendments, so that will take up, I am sure, a considerable amount of time. I understand that Senator SANTORUM and Senator

WELLSTONE and Senator MCCONNELL have amendments they will be prepared to offer this afternoon. No rollcall votes will occur during today's session.

Also, today it is the intention of the leadership to debate the Y2K legislation for an hour or so at the end of the day, which would then, of course, take us over into tomorrow, when, under a previous unanimous consent agreement, there will be a cloture vote on a motion to proceed to Y2K at 9:45 a.m.

For the remainder of the week, the Senate will, hopefully, complete action on the juvenile justice bill and the Y2K legislation. Also, the Senate will turn to the supplemental appropriations conference report. I understand that may not be available until late tomorrow afternoon or perhaps even Wednesday. Exactly when that will be brought up will depend, in part at least, on the disposition of these other two bills. Senators should expect rollcall votes throughout each day and into the evening, if necessary, although I would not anticipate a late night on Tuesday, but we could have to go into late nights Wednesday and Thursday.

On Friday, we will not have any legislative business even though we may have a pro forma session. There is a Democratic retreat similar to the one the Republicans had last month, and that is scheduled for Friday. So we will not have any recorded votes so that they can attend this meeting.

Mr. President, I want to again ask for cooperation by Senators in offering amendments and also trying to complete action on these two very important bills. The Y2K liability issue is one of growing concern. If you read the newspapers Friday and Saturday, you learned that there is a growing problem with small businesses trying to become Y2K compliant. There is a great deal of consternation about the liability exposure, and this bill provides a way for these problems to be addressed without leading to a myriad of lawsuits. I have even seen one statement that the Y2K litigation costs could exceed the cost of asbestos, breast implants, and tobacco litigation. That is massive. I do not know whether that is accurate or not, but it is a problem with which we need to try to deal.

Also, on juvenile justice, this underlying bill has been in the making for 2 years. We have had amendments, and we will have other amendments offered with regard to violence in the schools, how you deal with that, with the impact of certain laws that we already have on the books as to schools and, of course, gun amendments. I hope we can come to a reasonable agreement of how

we can complete both of these bills this week and then go to the supplemental appropriations bill and be prepared late this week or early next week to turn to the defense authorization bill. At a time when we have our men and women engaged in combat, we need to go ahead and move this very important piece of legislation.

So those, along with the DOD appropriations bill, I hope to have completed by a week from Thursday night before the Memorial Day recess.

With that, I yield the floor, Mr. President, and I observe the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ROBERTS). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Acting in my capacity as a Senator from Kansas, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Acting in my capacity as a Senator from Kansas, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 1 p.m.

There being no objection, at 12:17 p.m., the Senate recessed until 1:08 p.m.; whereupon, the Senate reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. CHAFEE).

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative assistant proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Y2K ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 96, which the clerk will report.

The legislative assistant read as follows:

Motion to proceed to the consideration of S. 96, a bill to regulate commerce between and among the several States by providing for the orderly resolution of disputes arising out of computer-based problems related to processing data that includes a 2-digit expression of that year's date.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

Mr. HATCH. I ask the Y2K bill be set aside and we return to the—