

SENATE—Thursday, May 27, 1999

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Dr. Thomas Tewell, of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York City.

We are very pleased to have you with us.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, the Reverend Dr. Thomas K. Tewell, the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York, NY, offered the following prayer:

Will you pray with me.

Our Lord and our God, in this era of violence and moral confusion, we ask Your richest blessings to be poured out on the United States of America. We thank You for the destiny that You have given to us to be a living illustration of the righteousness and justice that You desire for all nations. Today we pray for the women and men in the United States Senate who work for long hours fulfilling their enormous responsibilities. They sometimes expend an incredible amount of energy on an issue, only to see it voted down. So often the good things they try to do meet with stubborn resistance. Their physical stress is aggravated as emotions are stretched and strained in this pressure cooker of responsibility.

Gracious God of love, protect the Senators from going beyond their human limitations where burnout brings discouragement. Make them wise in their responsibilities to their families, themselves, and most of all to You. Grant them the humility to remember their need for Sabbath rest, daily relaxation, and spiritual renewal. Most of all, O God, teach the Members of the Senate and all leaders in our Nation to wait upon You and thus renew their strength. May we put You first in our lives by remembering the words of the prophet Isaiah who said, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." We pray in the strong name of the One who was never in a hurry, yet finished the work He came to do. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

Mr. LOTT. I thank the President pro tempore.

APPRECIATION TO THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I extend my appreciation to Dr. Tom Tewell. I understand he is from the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City, and he is a friend of the Chaplain. A friend of the Chaplain is a friend of us all.

We appreciate having you here with us today.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today the Senate will resume consideration of the defense authorization bill and immediately begin debate on the Allard amendment regarding the Civil Air Patrol. A vote in relation to the Allard amendment has been ordered for 10 a.m. I understand discussions are still continuing with regard to that amendment. Other amendments will be offered, I am sure. They are pending. I am sure Senators will want to have them offered and considered one way or another today. There will be votes throughout the day.

It is the intention of the managers—and certainly my intention—to complete action on this bill. I urge the managers to complete action during today, not tonight. There are a number of Senators who are planning on proceeding to their States tonight, late tonight, or early in the morning, so we really need to get this legislation completed.

I commend the managers on both sides of the aisle for the work they have done, but I do think we need to get a definite list of amendments locked in. Otherwise, I am sure some Senators will continue to think of ideas they may want to have addressed. If Senators have amendments they want to have considered today, they need to see the managers during this next vote. After that, we hope to limit the amendments, limit the time, get the votes, and complete this work. This is very important legislation that needs to be completed and must be completed before tonight.

I thank my colleagues for their cooperation.

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUNNING). The clerk will report.

The legislative assistant read as follows:

A bill (S. 1138) to regulate interstate commerce by making provision for dealing with losses arising from Year 2000 Problem-related failures that may disrupt communications, intermodal transportation, and other matters affecting interstate commerce.

Mr. LOTT. I object, Mr. President, to further proceeding on this matter at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill will go to the calendar.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 1059, which the clerk will report.

The legislative assistant read as follows:

A bill (S. 1059) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2000 military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Lott amendment No. 394, to improve the monitoring of the export of advanced satellite technology, to require annual reports with respect to Taiwan, and to improve the provisions relating to safeguards, security, and counterintelligence at Department of Energy facilities.

Allard/Harkin amendment No. 396, to express the sense of Congress that no major change to the governance structure of the Civil Air Patrol should be mandated by Congress until a review of potential improvements in the management and oversight of Civil Air Patrol operations is conducted.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 411 THROUGH 441, EN BLOC

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, it is the intention of the manager to try to do the cleared amendments. I want to make certain that the distinguished ranking member is in concurrence.

That is indicated, so I think I will proceed.

On behalf of myself and the ranking member, the Senator from Michigan, I send 31 amendments to the desk. I would say before the clerk reports that this package of amendments is for Senators on both sides of the aisle and has been cleared by the minority.

I send the amendments to the desk at this time and ask that they be considered en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report.