

**SENATE—Monday, July 17, 2000**

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:

We praise You, dear God. You have promised never to leave or forsake us. Our confidence is in You and not ourselves. We come to You in prayer, not trusting our own goodness but solely in Your grace. You are our joy when we get down, our strength when we are weak, our courage when we vacillate. You are our security in a world of change and turmoil. Even when we forget You in the rush of life, You never forget us. Thank You for Your faithfulness.

At this moment we claim that faithfulness for our friend, Senator PAUL COVERDELL, as he undergoes surgery. Bless him, care for him, and heal him.

And now dear God, filled with wonder, love, and gratitude, we commit this week to live and work for You, inviting the indwelling power of Your spirit. Bless the Senators. Control their minds and give them Your discernment. Give them boldness to take stands for what You have revealed is the application of Your righteousness and justice for our Nation.

Thank You for the privilege of living this week for You. In Your all powerful name. Amen.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Honorable PETER G. FITZGERALD, a Senator from the State of Illinois, 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 MAJORITY LEADER**

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FITZGERALD). The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Chair.

**PRAYERS AND REFLECTIONS**

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I express my appreciation also once again to our Chaplain of the Senate, Lloyd John Ogilvie, and for his remembering our friend and my most trusted confidante, most reliable lieutenant, the Senator from Georgia, PAUL COVERDELL. I don't know of a Senator who works any harder or has a more indomitable spirit. I noticed particularly Friday afternoon how happy he was as he took leave of

this Chamber because of the vote that we had just taken and realizing that he would have the opportunity to be home in Georgia on Friday afternoon and on Saturday. Our thoughts and our prayers are with him as he apparently undergoes a surgical procedure at this hour. I thank the Chaplain for his prayer.

Coincidentally, this weekend I also had a little more time than I anticipated and was able to spend some time thinking about our country and reading some books. One of those that I read was "Going For The Max," by Senator MAX CLELAND, also of Georgia. It is a really inspirational book about his life and his experience as a Vietnam veteran and the recovery period he had to go through and the inspiration from things he had learned in his life—12 principles of life that he had learned and on which he relies. I talked to him this morning to tell him how much I enjoyed his book; that I was inspired by it. And he said he was at that very moment standing there looking at Piedmont Hospital where our friend, Senator COVERDELL, is, and he was saying a prayer for him. He offered to cover any meetings or appointments that needed to be done today or this week by Senator COVERDELL.

That is the kind of real love and appreciation and bipartisanship we need more of in this institution and in our lives. So I encourage my colleagues in the Senate, if you have not read it, get a copy of "Going For The Max," and it will be an inspiration to you.

**SCHEDULE**

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 3 p.m. with Senators BYRD and THOMAS in control of the time.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the Interior appropriations bill, and hopefully we will be able to complete our deliberations on that bill and get to final passage on all amendments and the bill itself tomorrow morning.

Under the previous agreement, there are up to 10 amendments remaining to the Interior bill that must be offered and debated during today's session. Hopefully, some of those amendments will be withdrawn, others will be accepted, and maybe we will not need to have more than a couple of them actually voted on, and then go to final passage tomorrow morning. I believe those votes will be stacked in the morning at 9:45 a.m.

At 6:15 this evening, the Senate will begin the final votes on the reconcili-

ation bill which provides for the elimination of the marriage penalty tax. Senators should be aware that during the remainder of the afternoon on Friday, when all amendments were offered and/or debated, almost 40 potential votes could occur in regard to this legislation.

Again, I hope and I think that several of those amendments were just filed as a precaution and that not nearly that many will actually require a vote; some of them can be accepted. But I do expect there will be somewhere between 10 and 15, at least, that will require a recorded vote. We will try to do a major portion of those tonight, if not all of them. We may try to get a consent to finish the remainder of the votes on amendments and final passage tomorrow morning after we take a look at exactly how many we are going to have to do, look at how many we would have to vote on tonight, how many we would have to vote on in the morning, and try to be reasonable in how we schedule those votes. But we do need to get both of them completed not later than tomorrow morning. So votes are expected into the night. We could have, I guess, conceivably 10, 15, or more votes tonight beginning at 6:15. Of course, we have stacked them and the votes will be limited to 10 minutes in length after the first vote. Senators will be encouraged to remain in the Chamber again during the votes.

We were able to record 10 votes in about 1½ hours I think on Friday, which probably is some kind of new record. A lot of the credit for that goes to Senator HARRY REID, the assistant minority leader, because he stayed in the Chamber and helped me make sure that we wrapped those votes up as quickly as was possible.

This will be an important week. After we complete those two very important issues, we will need to go to the Agriculture appropriations bill which has been awaiting action in the Senate now for probably a month. Senator COCHRAN has indicated he will be ready to go tomorrow morning or right after lunch, whichever is available to him, to begin debate on this very important legislation.

We also would like to have the opportunity to consider the energy and water appropriations bill this week also. It is ready and should not take a lot of time. But that will depend on how long it takes on the Agriculture appropriations bill.

I see smiles throughout the Chamber, the idea that we would complete these two bills I have already mentioned and then take up two appropriations bills,