

SENATE—Thursday, July 27, 2000

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Father Thomas Acker, president, Wheeling Jesuit University, Wheeling, WV, will give the prayer. He is a guest of Senator BYRD.

We are glad to have you with us.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Father Thomas Acker, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father, from whom each of us comes and to whom each of us must return, we daily finger the coins of our realm. On each coin of this Republic is inscribed our invocation, our prayer, and our petition: "In God We Trust." "If You Yahweh, do not build the house, in vain the mason's toil: If You Yahweh, do not guard the city, in vain the sentry's watch."—Psalm 127. Even as we hold this prayerful coin in our fingers, we acknowledge that You hold us in the palm of Your hand. Lord, in You we trust.

We open this deliberative day of Senate life, this last Thursday of July, the month of our independence, assured that You watch over us; indeed, we are the apple of Your eye. Bring Your light to our deliberations, Your wisdom to our decisions, Your peace to our outcomes. May the seed that we plant be like the tiny mustard seed, growing strong of stem, bountiful in branches, and laden with good fruit.

The Senators, men and women of leadership, bow their heads before You, and ask Your blessing. Lord of the Universe, in both faith and humility, the Senators pray: Prosper the work of our hands, prosper the work of our hands. In God we trust. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable ROD GRAMS, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, 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 ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning

business until 11 a.m., for those Senators who wish to make final statements in remembrance of our former friend and colleague, Senator PAUL COVERDELL.

Following morning business, Senator designate Zell Miller will be sworn in to serve as United States Senator. After the ceremony and a few remarks, the Senate will proceed to a cloture vote on the motion to proceed to the energy and water appropriations bill. At the conclusion of the vote, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report to accompany the Department of Defense appropriations bill, with a vote to occur at approximately 3:15 p.m. For the remainder of the day, the Senate is expected to begin postcloture debate on the motion to proceed to the energy and water appropriations bill.

It is hoped that a vote on cloture on the motion to proceed to the PNTR China legislation can be moved to occur at a time to be determined during today's session. I thank my colleagues for their attention.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2940 AND S. 2941

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk due for their second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GRAMS). The clerk will report the bills by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2940) to authorize additional assistance for international malaria control, and to provide for coordination and consultation in providing assistance under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 with respect to malaria, HIV, and tuberculosis.

A bill (S. 2941) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide meaningful campaign finance reform through requiring better reporting, decreasing the role of soft money, and increasing individual contribution limits, and for other purposes.

Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I object to further proceedings on these bills at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the rule, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

The Senator from West Virginia.

GUEST CHAPLAIN FATHER THOMAS S. ACKER, S.J.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, I commend the Senate's guest Chaplain today, Father Thomas S. Acker, S.J., for his eloquent prayer opening today's session of the United States Senate.

For the last 18 years, Fr. Acker has been serving as President of Wheeling

Jesuit University in Wheeling, West Virginia.

During that time, Wheeling Jesuit University has grown to become one of the leading universities in the State of West Virginia, and much of that growth is due to the insight and hard work of this Jesuit priest. During Fr. Acker's tenure at Wheeling Jesuit, the enrollment has doubled—doubled—and the number of buildings and square footage on campus has more than doubled. The addition of the Robert C. Byrd National Technology Transfer Center, the Erma Ora Byrd Center for Educational Technologies, and the Alan B. Mollohan Challenger Learning Center on campus places Wheeling Jesuit University in a unique position for growth into the 21st Century, which will begin next year, and has made a difference in the lives of the residents of West Virginia and beyond.

Recently, Fr. Acker was presented, by Administrator Dan Goldin, with the Distinguished Public Service Medal of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA, the highest honor given to a civilian from that agency. This award reflects the high confidence that NASA and its Administrator have in the stewardship of Fr. Acker in connection with agency programs administered—where? at Wheeling Jesuit University.

Fr. Acker, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, entered the Jesuit order in 1947. That was my first year in the West Virginia House of delegates. He has a Ph.D. in biology. I don't have a Ph.D. in anything. But I have grandsons who have Ph.D.s. I have two grandsons who have Ph.D.s in physics; not political science but physics. But Fr. Acker has a Ph.D. in Biology from Stanford University. He has taught at John Carroll University. He has taught at the University of Detroit. He has taught at San Francisco University. He has served as Dean of Arts and Sciences at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and worked in the country of Nepal, first as a Fulbright professor and then as Project Director of the U.S. Peace Corps.

Fr. Tom Acker's tenure as the President at Wheeling Jesuit University will end on Monday, July 31, 2000, the last year of the 20th century, but he will not be leaving the State of West Virginia. He has grown to love that State. Rather, he will remain in West Virginia, working in the southern sector to continue his great service to the great State of West Virginia.

I look forward to my continued relationship with this strong, competent, and compassionate man of the cloth,