

SENATE—Tuesday, September 5, 2000

The Senate met at 12:02 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

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

Lord of all life, we praise You that there is no division between the sacred and the secular. You have created all things to praise You and our work to glorify You. Forgive us when we forget that what is said and done here in this Chamber is as sacred as what is done in a sanctuary of a synagogue or in a church. Whatever belongs to You is sacred. This Nation, this Senate, the women and men who serve as Senators, and all of us who work with them and for them belong first and foremost to You. You are our Judge. We are accountable to You. Forgive us when we trade political greatness for petulant gamesmanship, when words are used to criticize others rather than communicate truth about issues, when party spirit is more important than being party to Your Spirit, when winning the election in November becomes more crucial than nonpartisan winning of what's best for our Nation in the votes to be cast in the Senate. Bless the Senators in this busy season. Fill this Chamber with Your sovereign presence, the Senators' minds with Your wisdom, and their hearts with concern for each other. May debate greater expose truth and votes coincide with both conscience and conviction. This is the day You have made; we will rejoice and glorify You in it. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MIKE ENZI, a Senator from the State of Wyoming, 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. ENZI). The Chair recognizes the majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Chair.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, first, I would like to welcome all of my colleagues and our staff back from the August period when we had time to be with our families and our friends and our constituents. We are inspired by

the Chaplain's prayer and ready, I am sure, for a lot of good work. As I have visited with some of my colleagues already, I see that they look mighty rested and ready for a busy legislative period, and I think they are probably going to need to be. We still have to complete action on five appropriations measures, as well as conference reports as they become available.

In addition, there are a number of other legislative matters we hope to finish as we move toward the adjournment period of the Congress. We have some bills we hope to take up free-standing in the Senate, and, of course, we have some conference reports other than appropriations bills on which we will be working. So we have a lot of work we are going to need to consider.

Today, the Senate will have a period of morning business prior to the 12:30 p.m. recess for weekly party conferences and meetings. When the Senate reconvenes at 2:15 p.m., it will begin postcloture debate on the motion to proceed to the China PNTR legislation. Those Senators who wish to make statements are encouraged to notify the bill managers. Hopefully, a lot of Senators who wish to speak on the China trade issue will take advantage of the time today, and we will go to as late as possibly 6 p.m., although we may be prepared to go a little bit earlier than that if our colleagues have made their statements and we can get agreement to do that. But at least at 6 p.m. the Senate will begin consideration of the energy and water appropriations bill with amendments in order.

As a reminder, we will be considering these two bills on a dual track throughout the week with the motion to proceed to the China trade bill being considered during the day and the appropriations bill or bills being considered at night. So votes could still occur if we move toward the time when we could need to have a vote today, but certainly during the day on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and possibly Friday morning we will be having votes on the appropriations amendments that are offered at night or on China PNTR when amendments become available.

So there will be long days, but we will do our best to keep Senators advised after communicating with the leadership on both sides of the aisle what the schedule will be. I hope we can make good progress and complete this appropriations bill and move to another one later on this week or early next week.

MEASURES PLACED ON CAL-
ENDAR—H.R. 728, H.R. 1102, H.R.
1264, H.R. 2348, H.R. 3048, H.R. 3468,
H.R. 4033, H.R. 4079, H.R. 4201, H.R.
4923, H.R. 4846, H.R. 4888, H.R. 4700,
H.R. 4681, H.J. RES. 72

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I understand there are a number of bills at the desk due for their second reading. I ask unanimous consent that the bills be considered read a second time and placed on the calendar en bloc.

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

Mr. LOTT. I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 12:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

Mr. THOMAS addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the senior Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. THOMAS. I thank the Chair.

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I appreciate the opportunity to have a discussion as to where we are going in these remaining, I guess, less than 20 days we have before us. Certainly, we have a great deal to do, as the leader has pointed out. We have 13 appropriations bills and just 2 that have been passed. So we have the responsibility, probably first of all, to deal with that to keep the Government moving forward in doing the kinds of things we must do to ensure that programs in place now are funded.

There are a number of other things, of course, that will be talked about, a number of issues each of us, I suppose, have heard a great deal about when we were in our States. I come from a State in which nearly half the land belongs to the Federal Government. So you can imagine a good many of the things I heard about, and I am sure my partner in the Chair heard about, have to do with the public lands issue, the idea of access, multiple use.

We, of course, have had the great unfortunate experience during this time