

SENATE—Tuesday, September 12, 2000

The Senate met at 9:31 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

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

Almighty God, Sovereign of this Nation, as You guided our Founding Fathers to establish the separation of church and state to protect the church from the intrusion of government, rather than the intrusion of the church into government, we praise You that in Your providential plan for this Nation there is to be no separation of God and state. With gratitude we declare our motto: "In God We Trust." It is with reverence that, in a moment, we will repeat the words of commitment as part of our Pledge of Allegiance to our flag: "One nation under God, indivisible."

May these words never become so familiar by repetition that we lose our profound sense of awe and wonder, or our feeling of accountability and responsibility to place our trust in You, to seek Your guidance in all decisions, and make patriotism an essential expression of our relationship with You. We praise You for Your truth spelled out in our Bill of Rights and our Constitution. Help us not to take for granted the freedom we enjoy, nor the call You sound in our souls for righteousness in every aspect of our Nation. We repent for any moral decay in our culture, any contradiction of Your commandments in our society, and any reluctance to be faithful to You in our personal lives.

Wake us up and then stir us up with a fresh realization of the unique role You have given this Nation to exemplify what it means to be a blessed nation because we humble ourselves before You and exalt You as our only Sovereign. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CHUCK HAGEL, a Senator from the State of Nebraska, 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 PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VOINOVICH). The acting majority leader.

SCHEDULE

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, today the Senate will resume debate on the China PNTR legislation. Under the order, the time until 10 a.m. will be equally divided for closing remarks on the Byrd amendment regarding subsidies. Therefore, the first vote of the day will occur at 10 a.m. I understand there may be a possibility that Senator BYRD will request a voice vote rather than a roll-call vote. But depending on that request, following the vote, debate will resume on the Thompson amendment No. 4132. The Senate will recess for the weekly party conferences from 12:30 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. At 2:15, Senator HELMS will be recognized to offer an amendment which will be debated at that time. Further amendments are anticipated; therefore, Senators can expect votes throughout the day and into the evening.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. I say, through the Chair to my friend from Nebraska, we were also informed that Senator BYRD would agree to a voice vote on this. So I think it would be to everyone's best interests that those who have amendments to offer would offer the amendments as quickly as possible.

When Senator BYRD gets here, it is my understanding he wants to say a few words prior to the voice vote on his amendment. But I think it would be appropriate that the Senate be advised that there likely will not be a recorded vote at 10 o'clock this morning, so Senators should be about their other business.

I also say to the acting leader, we hope those who are managing the various appropriations bills that have passed the Senate and have passed the House would do whatever they can to get the conference process underway. We have a tremendous amount of work to do. And while we are not debating appropriations bills in the evening, as we were last week, there is still a lot of work to be done on those. We hope the conferences, including engaging the administration, would be ongoing at this time so we can have an end game around here to complete those bills.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

TO AUTHORIZE EXTENSION OF NONDISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 4444, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4444) to authorize extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the People's Republic of China, and to establish a framework for relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China.

Pending:

Wellstone amendment No. 4118, to require that the President certify to Congress that the People's Republic of China has taken certain actions with respect to ensuring human rights protection.

Wellstone amendment No. 4119, to require that the President certify to Congress that the People's Republic of China is in compliance with certain Memoranda of Understanding regarding prohibition on import and export of prison labor products.

Wellstone amendment No. 4120, to require that the President certify to Congress that the People's Republic of China has responded to inquiries regarding certain people who have been detained or imprisoned and has made substantial progress in releasing from prison people incarcerated for organizing independent trade unions.

Wellstone amendment No. 4121, to strengthen the rights of workers to associate, organize and strike.

Smith (of New Hampshire) amendment No. 4129, to require that the Congressional-Executive Commission monitor the cooperation of the People's Republic of China with respect to POW/MIA issues, improvement in the areas of forced abortions, slave labor, and organ harvesting.

Byrd amendment No. 4117, to require disclosure by the People's Republic of China of certain information relating to future compliance with World Trade Organization subsidy obligations.

Byrd amendment No. 4131, to improve the certainty of the implementation of import relief in cases of affirmative determinations by the International Trade Commission with respect to market disruption to domestic producers of like or directly competitive products.

Thompson amendment No. 4132, to provide for the application of certain measures to covered countries in response to the contribution to the design, production, development, or acquisition of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons or ballistic or cruise missiles.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Does my friend from Nebraska have a statement?

Mr. HAGEL. No, I do not.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.