

**SENATE—Tuesday, December 5, 2000***(Legislative day of Friday, September 22, 2000)*

The Senate met at 12:01 p.m., on the expiration of the recess, 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 our Nation, Lord of this Senate, and gracious Father of us all, we return to You in repentance, confessing our urgent need for Your grace. We cannot open the Senate today with a business-as-usual attitude. So much has happened in these past weeks in the contested Presidential election and the close Senate races. As tension mounts, patience wears thin, and party spirit threatens to displace the spirit of patriotism in America, we ask for Your healing spirit.

Life can make us bitter or better, resentful or resilient. The difference is in the opening of our minds and hearts to You. May this Senate exemplify to the Nation how reliance on You brings reconciliation in relationships. Help the Senators to model what it means to work together to complete the work of this 106th Congress. Heal our land, Lord, and make these Senators agents of healing.

Today, we celebrate the 98th birthday of Senator STROM THURMOND. We cherish our friendship with him and admire his patriotism. We marvel at his vigor and stamina. By Your providential care, on May 25, 1997, he became the longest serving Senator in the Nation's history. Yet it is not just the quantity but the quality of these years of service that motivate our admiration. May he know of our affirmation, feel our love, and be encouraged by Your blessing.

Now, Lord, we turn to the challenges of this day with the firm conviction that when we place our trust in You, You turn our struggles into stepping stones. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MICHAEL B. 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.

## RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENZI). Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

## RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair recognizes the majority leader.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO SENATOR STROM THURMOND

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, on behalf of an admiring Senate, I extend happy birthday and best wishes to our great Senator, the favorite son of South Carolina, STROM THURMOND. What a career he has had and what an example he sets for all of us: A soldier, a patriot, a teacher, a political leader, a man of good will, and a gentle man. We appreciate his presence every day and hope he has a very happy day today and many more to come.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I thank the majority leader for his kind remarks. He has done a great job. I don't know of anyone who has done better. We are proud of him. I want him to know it. We are proud of the Senate and all it has accomplished, and we expect to do even more as the days go by.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thank Senator THURMOND, and I yield to Senator REID.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I also express happy birthday wishes to Senator THURMOND. He is a wonderful example for all of us.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to offer my congratulations to Senator THURMOND on his 98th birthday. Few people are lucky enough to reach this milestone in their lives, but fewer still, if any, can claim a life as rich and colorful as STROM THURMOND's. He is what the lawyers call "sui generis"—one of a kind, unique. Last year, a monument to Senator THURMOND was dedicated on the grounds of the South Carolina Statehouse. It was a deserving tribute, but hardly necessary to mark his many contributions to our State and Nation. He is, after all, a living political icon. Generations of South Carolinians refer to him affectionately as "STROM" and his birthday is a celebration of service to our State. I know the people of South Carolina join me and Peatsy in sending Senator THURMOND our best wishes for a wonderful day.

## SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m. By previous consent, the Senate will recess from 12:30 to 2:15 for the weekly party conferences to meet. When we reconvene, the Senate may continue morning business. However, it is possible the Senate will have one or as many as four votes this afternoon. I don't want to lock it in at this point, but it is possible we could have a recorded vote at 2:15 on the continuing resolution that would be for 2 days. We also could have one or more votes this afternoon on or in relation to cloture on the conference report to accompany H.R. 2415, the bankruptcy legislation.

I see the distinguished assistant Democratic leader here. He may want to comment on that. I emphasize that we do expect at least a couple, maybe as many as four, votes this afternoon.

I welcome back all Senators of the 106th Congress. I hope this session can come to an early conclusion. It would be very important at this time, considering all that is going on. If we show we can act quickly on the remaining appropriations bills and dispose of the tax and Medicare issues, that will be very positive for our country. I look forward to working with the chairman and senior member of the Appropriations Committee to see if we can get that worked out and see if there is any way that maybe we can complete it by Thursday night when this continuing resolution will expire. We will get more information to all Senators later this afternoon, after consultation with the Democratic leaders.

I yield to Senator REID.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, Senator BYRD would like 15 minutes prior to the CR vote, to be divided between him and Senator STEVENS, to talk about that.

During our party conferences, we will find out if we need the two extra votes on bankruptcy. It is my understanding what the leader wants is to have a vote on cloture on bankruptcy. If we have to go through the drill, we will have to have a couple votes before we get to that. I will talk to the people in the Democratic Conference at 12:30 today and report back to the leader as quickly as I can.

I am happy to hear the majority leader talking about moving forward where we left off before the lame duck session started. There has been a tremendous amount of work that has gone into those appropriation bills, the balanced budget problem we have, the