

SENATE—Wednesday, December 6, 2000*(Legislative day of Friday, September 22, 2000)*

The Senate met at 10 a.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, Your intervention in trying times in the past has made us experienced optimists for the future. Our confidence is rooted in Your reliability. You are with us; therefore we will not fear. Your commandments give us Your absolutes; therefore we will not waver. You call us to obey You as well as love You; therefore we will not compromise our convictions. You will give us strength and courage for each challenge; therefore we will not be anxious. You have called us to glorify You with our work; therefore we will seek to do everything for thy Son. You have inspired us to be merciful as You are merciful; therefore we will restrain from condemnatory judgments. You have helped our Nation through contentious times of discord and disunity in the past; therefore we ask for Your help in these days as we wait for final resolution of the Presidential election.

Grant the Senators a special empowering of Your Spirit today. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable GEORGE VOINOVICH, a Senator from the State of Ohio, 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 acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 11 a.m. with Senators HAGEL and DURBIN in control of the time. Following morning business, the Senate will begin postcloture debate on the bankruptcy conference report, with a vote scheduled to occur tomorrow at 4 p.m., or earlier if any of the remaining debate time is yielded back.

It is still hoped that the remaining business of the Congress can be completed this week, and therefore additional votes can be expected. I thank my colleagues for their attention.

Mr. REID. If the Senator will yield, I appreciate very much especially the last phrase of his statement. I believe it is very important for the American public, the people from Nebraska, and the people from Nevada, that we try to complete our work as quickly as possible, without a lot of dissension. There was a tremendous amount of work put into the various appropriations bills—the balanced budget add-on and other things we did prior to leaving here that we almost had completed. I hope we can join together and finish that as quickly as possible and not leave any undone work for the new Congress and President.

I was happy to hear the acting leader indicate that we were going to try to finish the business we have now pending before the Congress. I think it will send a very good message to the American public if we can work together, as I believe we are going to have to do with the next Congress. Thank you.

Mr. HAGEL. I thank the Senator. That is the intent of the leadership. Both leaders are working their way through this, and we are all hopeful that will produce some tangible, productive results. Thank you.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 10:30 a.m. is under the control of the Senator from Nebraska.

TRIBUTE TO ELEVEN DEPARTING SENATORS

Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I rise this morning to reflect on the service of our 11 colleagues who will be completing their Senate service in the next few days. Hugh Sidey, one of the great journalists and political observers of our time, who covered eight Presidents and became well acquainted with those Presidents, once said that “politics, after all is said and done, is the business of belief and enthusiasm. Hope energizes, doubt destroys. Hopelessness is

not our heritage.” So said Mr. Sidey. Aside from the fact that he has Nebraska roots, which I suspect reflects some element of his good judgment, he is right.

As we reflect on the service of these 11 individuals who will be leaving this institution, the one common denominator that anchored the 11 was commitment to something bigger than themselves: service to this country. The 11 individuals reflect our society, as does this body, from the States they represented, to their backgrounds, to their commitments. That, too, represented what may be this country’s greatest strength and that is its diversity.

As TOM DASCHLE mentioned last night at the Supreme Court dinner, in the history of this institution, only 1,853 men and women have ever served here. Now, we will increase that number on January 3. But the 11 colleagues and friends who leave this institution are among those 1,853 individuals who have served and are now serving.

I think it is worthy to bring some note to these 11 individuals. They have been honored and recognized throughout this year, and very appropriately so, individually by many Members of this body, but I wish, in the few minutes I have, to maybe tie some more general themes together about why these 11 men have been so important together to this body.

We begin by asking the question: Who are these 11 bold, different, distinguished citizens?

Well, first, they are from all parts of the country. They are of different religions. They are fathers, husbands, brothers, uncles, and grandfathers. Scattered among these 11, of course, are Republicans and Democrats, maybe liberals, maybe some conservatives, and maybe some moderates.

As we look further, we find the veterans—World War II veterans, Vietnam war veterans. One among them is my friend and colleague from Nebraska, Senator BOB KERREY, who holds the Congressional Medal of Honor.

We have war heroes and veterans among these 11. We have former Governors, former attorneys general, ambassadors, businessmen, journalists, lawyers, and bankers—all representing the fiber of this country, all representing the different universes of this country that tie us together as a nation. Surely among the 11 is one of the preeminent public servants of our time, Senator MOYNIHAN from New York.

At a time when the world peers in the large window of the front room of