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SENATE—Wednesday, April 26, 2000

The Senate met at 10:02 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:

Dear God, so often in our prayers, we present You with our own agendas. We ask for guidance and strength and courage to do what we have already decided. Usually, what we have in mind is to receive from You what we think we need to get on with our prearranged plans. Often we present our shopping list of blessings that we have in mind for our projects, many of which we may not have checked out with You. Sometimes we have little time to talk with You or listen to You. The blessings we receive are empty unless we also receive a deeper fellowship with You. Help us to think of prayer throughout this day as simply reporting in for duty and asking for fresh marching orders. We want to be all that You want us to be, and we want to do what You have planned for us. May this opening prayer be the beginning of a conversation with You that lasts all through the day. Help us to attempt something we could not do without Your power. You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MIKE DEWINE, a Senator from the State of Ohio, led the Senate in 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 distinguished Senator from Ohio.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, on behalf of Majority Leader LOTT, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be

in a period for morning business until 12 noon today, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes each, with the following exceptions: Senator LOTT, or his designee, 40 minutes; Senator HELMS, 20 minutes; Senator DASCHLE, or his designee, 60 minutes.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, I want Senator DEWINE to go through the rest of the schedule.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, following morning business, it is expected the Senate will receive the veto message on the nuclear waste bill from the White House. Under the rule, when that message is received, the Senate will immediately begin debate on overriding the President's veto. It is hoped an agreement can be made with regard to debate time so that a vote will be scheduled.

As a reminder, the cloture motion on the substitute amendment to the marriage tax penalty bill is still pending. That vote will occur immediately following the adoption of the motion to proceed to the victims' rights resolution. Therefore, votes are possible during this afternoon's session of the Senate. Senators will be notified as those votes are scheduled.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I say to my friend that the veto message from the President will not arrive here until this evening sometime. So I do not think we can plan on doing anything with that today.

I also say to the majority, as soon as a determination is made as to how much time the majority wants, I assume through Senator MURKOWSKI, we will be willing to enter into a time agreement with the proponents of this veto override. I hope it will be the majority leader's wish that we can do this sometime tomorrow. As I indicated earlier, the veto will not arrive until sometime this evening.

Having said that, I withdraw my objection to the unanimous-consent request allowing morning business until 12 o'clock today.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEWINE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE EPIDEMIC OF GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. TORRICELLI. Mr. President, 2 weeks ago it was a Michigan nursing home and Monday night it was a shoot-out at the National Zoo here in Washington, D.C. The epidemic of gun violence has become something that affects all Americans, not only those living in our inner cities.

Whenever we open our morning newspapers and read about these tragedies, we are left to wonder whether our loved ones might be the next victims and whether our own community, our own neighborhood, and our own home could be tomorrow's headlines.

The devastation that guns have brought to our families and to our communities has been well documented, but the statistics bear repeating. Only with an understanding of the dimensions of the problem will we ever bring real change.

In 1997 alone, more than 32,000 Americans were shot and killed, including 4,000 children.

The American Academy of Pediatrics estimates by the year 2006 firearms will become the largest single killer of our own children in the United States.

The economic cost of every shooting death in society—if it is necessary to measure it in these cold terms—is \$1 million per victim in medical care, police services, and lost productivity.

The American public has grown tired of hearing of these appalling statistics.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a member of the Senate on the floor.