

SENATE—Monday, May 8, 2000

The Senate met at 1 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:

Almighty God, before us is a brand new week filled with opportunities to serve as servant leaders. We trust You to guide us so that all that we do and say today will be for Your glory.

Since we will pass through this day only once, if there is any kindness we can express, any affirmation we can communicate, any help we can give, free us to do it today. Help us to be sensitive to what is happening to the people around us. We know there are unmet needs beneath the surface of the most successful and the most self-assured people. Today, some are enduring hidden physical or emotional pain; others are fearful of uncertain futures; and still others carry burdens of worry for families or friends. May we take no one for granted but, instead, be communicators of Your love and encouragement.

We pause to ask Your special blessing and healing on the members of the family of Officer Robert Lebron III, who were involved in an automobile accident this morning.

And now, Lord, we express gratitude for all of the people who make this Senate function effectively: Each Senator's staff, the Senate officers and staff, the Official Reporters of Debates, the Capitol Police and Secret Service, the maintenance crews, and the people who work so faithfully in hundreds of other crucial tasks. We also thank You for the outstanding young men and women who serve as Senate pages. We praise You for each one of these future leaders of our Nation. Lord, You have richly blessed this Senate so that You may bless this Nation through its inspired leadership. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON KYL, a Senator from the State of Arizona, 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 Senator from Arizona is recognized.

Mr. KYL. I thank the Chair.

SCHEDULE

Mr. KYL. On behalf of the leader, let me announce that today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 3 p.m. with Senators THOMAS and DURBIN in control of the time.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the elementary and secondary education bill. The Senate will then begin consideration of the Lott-Gregg amendment regarding teacher quality. By previous consent, Senator LIEBERMAN will offer his alternative to S. 2 on Tuesday morning.

On Thursday, the Senate received the African Trade CBI conference report. It is expected that the Senate will consider that important legislation during this week's session of the Senate.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KYL assumed the chair.

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

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

The Senator from South Carolina is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. THURMOND pertaining to the introduction of S. 2516 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Under the previous order, the time until 3 shall be under the control of the distinguished Senator from Wyoming, Mr. THOMAS, or his designee.

EDUCATION

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, let me begin by thanking Senator THOMAS, again, for allowing the time to be devoted to this important subject which we began discussing last week and hopefully will be able to continue this week, namely, the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and specifically the bill the Republican majority in the Senate has put forth called the Educational Opportunities Act, S. 2.

It is my hope that by the end of this week we will have an opportunity to vote on this legislation, to finally conclude our work and move this bill forward so we can present it to the President for his signature and actually achieve a historic reform opportunity this year. As I said, I hope we will have that result. The reason, however, I have some doubt is that we have seen what I fear is a trend, on the part of the Democratic minority, to continue to talk about education but in the end not allow the Senate to vote on any meaningful piece of legislation. I think the debate so far has vividly portrayed two very different views of how the Federal Government should proceed with educational reform in our country.

On the one hand, you have the majority arguing for flexibility combined with accountability: Flexibility, so the local entities, the school districts, the States, the schools, and the parents can have the ability to direct the dollars from the Federal Government to do those things they know work best in their particular area, and to have some accountability for that by ensuring that at the end of the year they demonstrate what they have done with this money has actually produced results. We are talking here about academic achievement, we are talking about meaningful results, not simply more students in a particular program or more teachers hired or more school buildings built. We are talking about some tangible results of those particular actions. So it is flexibility with accountability.

Part of the way we achieve that is through greater competition, which is driven by more parental choice, parents having the ability to decide what is best for their kids; after all, they are the ones we presume care the most about them, know the most about their needs, and understand how best, therefore, to deal with those kids' needs.

On the other hand, you have the minority that has been arguing for the same system of Federal mandates and regulations that, frankly, after 35 years have proven to be a failure. It is