

SENATE—Thursday, June 8, 2000

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Rev. Philip A. Smith, president of Providence College, Providence, RI, offered the following prayer:

Let us pause for a few moments and place ourselves in the presence of God.

As we gather in Your presence this morning, O gracious God, we thank You for the gifts You have bestowed on us. The grandeur of the universe, the wonder of love, the beauty of friendship, and the time to enjoy it all. We thank You for the privilege of living in a land of plenty and promise, equality and opportunity, a land where freedom reigns and peace is possible.

We ask Your blessings on the Members of this Senate as they grapple with complex economic, social, political, and cultural challenges in this Nation and around the world. Grant them the insight, wisdom, and courage to fashion legislation that will create a fresh vision and inspire hope, that will balance opportunity costs with social justice, that will enhance the quality of life for all Americans, while paying special attention to those in our midst who experience their existence as fragile or painful: the ill and the elderly, the unloved and the unwanted, the hungry and the homeless, the disadvantaged and the downtrodden.

Finally, we ask to enrich our faith and strengthen our hope, nurture our wisdom and deepen our love, increase our compassion, and broaden our tolerance so that our lives may illuminate the lives of others and light up the places where we labor and live.

We ask You this as a people of faith confident of Your love and goodness and as a people of hope who trust in Your promises. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable CRAIG THOMAS, 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. THOMAS). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 2549, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2549) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

Pending: Smith (of NH) amendment No. 3210, to prohibit granting security clearances to felons.

McCain amendment No. 3214 (to amendment No. 3210), to require the disclosure of expenditures and contributions by certain political organizations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, again I wish to express my cooperation to the leadership of the Senate, most specifically my distinguished ranking member, Mr. LEVIN. We are making progress on this bill.

I inquire first of the Chair with regard to time allocations. I believe, under the previous order, 1 hour has been reserved for the distinguished junior Senator from Massachusetts, to be assigned at some point today; is that not correct?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is correct.

Mr. WARNER. I inquire further about the distinguished Senator from New Hampshire, Mr. ROBERT SMITH. I believe he has 30 minutes, and again that is an undesignated time?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is correct.

Mr. WARNER. I think there are other designations of time we should recite.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Senator INHOFE from Oklahoma has 10 minutes; Senator SNOWE from Maine has 30 minutes.

Mr. WARNER. If those Senators will counsel with the managers, we are going to do everything we can to arrange for their recognition at a time mutually convenient.

I see the distinguished junior Senator from Massachusetts on the floor. It may well be that we could proceed with that, but I shall defer to my colleague momentarily.

SCHEDULE

For the benefit of the Senate, we will resume consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill. At 1 o'clock, the Senate will begin 2 hours of debate on the McCain amendment regarding soft money disclosure. That 2 hours will be equally divided between

the sponsors of that amendment and the Senator from Virginia.

Following that debate, Senator KENNEDY will be recognized to offer an amendment regarding health care management organizations. Under a previous order, there will be up to 2 hours of debate on the Kennedy amendment, again, with the time equally divided between Kennedy proponents and the Senator from Virginia and/or his designee.

Votes will occur at approximately 5 o'clock. Senators should be aware, other amendments may be offered during the morning session. Therefore, votes may occur prior to the 1 o'clock orders.

I thank my colleagues. I know the distinguished minority whip seeks recognition on a matter.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the only correction I make is that the amendment will be offered by Senator DASCHLE or his designee, rather than Senator KENNEDY.

Mr. WARNER. I thank the distinguished Senator. Yesterday I believe the Senator brought that to my attention and we failed to record it. My statement is so amended by the distinguished Senator from Nevada.

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

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on behalf of Senator CONRAD, I ask unanimous consent, under rule VI, paragraph 2, he be permitted to be absent from the service of the Senate today, Thursday, June 8.

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

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I propose to my ranking member that as soon as we conclude our opening remarks, the Senate then recognize the junior Senator from Massachusetts for a period of 1 hour; is that correct?

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, my two colleagues, the Senator from Connecticut and the Senator from Rhode Island would like to take a moment to acknowledge our distinguished visiting Chaplain this morning. If they could just have a moment to do that.

Mr. WARNER. I am delighted to accommodate them in that fashion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

GREETINGS TO REV. PHILIP A. SMITH

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I am delighted to welcome Father Philip Smith, the president of Providence College, our guest Chaplain.

Providence College is an extraordinary institution in my home State of