The Senate met at 9:30 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:

Almighty God, today as we celebrate Flag Day, we repledge allegiance to our flag and recommit ourselves to the awesome responsibilities You have entrusted to us. May the flag that waves above this Capitol remind us that this is Your land. We thank You for outward symbols of inner meaning that remind us of Your blessings. The sight of our flag stirs our patriotism and dedication. It reminds us of Your providential care through the years, of our blessed history as a people, of our role in the unfinished and unfolding drama of the American dream, and of the privilege we share by living in this land.

Thank You, Lord, that our flag also gives us a bracing affirmation of the unique role of the Senate in our democracy. In each age, You have called truly great men and women to serve as leaders. May the Senators experience fresh strength and vision as You renew in them the drumbeat of Your Spirit, calling them to march to the cadence of Your righteousness. We pledge allegiance to the high calling of keeping this land one Nation under You, our God.

Today on the 225th birthday of the United States Army we join with all Americans in thanking You for the patriotism, faithfulness, and bravery of the men and women of the Army throughout the years. Dear God, You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable WAYNE ALLARD, a Senator from the State of Colorado, 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. ALLARD). 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 assistant 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 New Hampshire modified amendment No. 3210, to prohibit granting security clearances to felons.

Warner-Dodd amendment No. 3267, to establish a National Bipartisan Commission on Cuba to evaluate United States policy with respect to Cuba.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, the leadership determined the Senate will return to consideration of this very important piece of legislation. I shall now read the order that was devised by the leaders.

Today, the Senate will immediately resume consideration of S. 2549, the Department of Defense authorization bill. As a reminder, there are an overwhelming number of amendments in order. In an effort to complete action on the bill, those Senators with amendments are encouraged to work with the bill managers during today’s session.

Of course—I think I am joined by my distinguished ranking member—we desire to try our very best to continue to consider only those amendments that are actually germane to the purpose of this bill. That is my hope. Votes are expected throughout the day, and Senators will be notified as votes are scheduled.

Senators should be aware that consideration of the Transportation appropriations bill may begin as early as the leadership determines. Hopefully, also, last night we agreed among the leadership to vote on the nominee for the Department of Energy, General Gordon. There will be some announcement to that effect later today.

Mr. BYRD. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. WARNER. Yes, I want to finish up.

Mr. BYRD. Did not the clerk read “a bill making appropriations”? Did not the clerk read “a bill making appropriations” being the business before the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill is to authorize appropriations.

Mr. BYRD. Parliamentary inquiry: What is the business before the Senate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. S. 2549 is the bill before the Senate. It is to authorize appropriations.

Mr. WARNER. I thank our distinguished colleague.

It had been my hope to lay aside the Smith amendment to which is attached the McCain amendment regarding campaign finance issues. I have been advised there is an objection to laying that aside. There is a possibility that objection could be raised solely for the purpose of the managers of the bill, Mr. LEVIN and myself, proceeding to clear amendments that have been agreed to on both sides. I am just not at the moment able to assure the Senate that is in place.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, for clarification.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator withhold his request?

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. A quorum call has been requested.

Mr. WARNER. I urge us to proceed with the quorum call.

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

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

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, we have had a discussion with the leaders on the other side of the aisle. I think there is a consensus that with the current objection to laying aside the Smith-McCain legislative package, which is the pending business, together with the Warner-Dodd amendment, which also needs a UC to lay aside, we cannot do either of those at this time. So the consensus is we go into a period of morning business, and at the hour of 11 o’clock the Senator from Virginia be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. LEVIN. Reserving the right to object, at the hour of 11 o’clock we would then return to the consideration of the matter that is now pending.

Mr. WARNER. Right, and that I be recognized.

Mr. LEVIN. And that the Senator from Virginia be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Reserving the right to object, Mr. President, it is my understanding, of course—and I think it is