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

PRA EY

The Chaplain, Mr. 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.

PLE DGE 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 leadership.

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 the amendment 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
our understanding collectively—that for the next 1 hour and 15 minutes, until 11 o’clock, there would be no substantive legislative issues that would be introduced in any manner.

Mr. WARNER. That is correct. I understand that is under the rules guaranteed. We should, I think to accommodate our distinguished colleagues who have been waiting—

Mr. REID. We should get that.

Mr. WARNER. Get the order entered. I was going to include a specific time for the President pro tempore, the former distinguished majority leader, and such others who want to be recognized during morning business.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that 6 minutes be allocated to the distinguished senior Senator from South Carolina and——

Mr. REID. Twenty minutes.

Mr. WARNER. Twenty minutes be allocated to our distinguished colleague, Senator BYRD, and then the morning would flow in morning business until 11 o’clock.

Mr. REID. And all the reservations that were announced would be subject to the unanimous consent request that has been propounded?

Mr. WARNER. That is correct.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina, Mr. THURMOND, is recognized.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for 6 minutes.

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

COMMENORATION OF FLAG DAY. JUNE 14, 2000

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, 223 years ago today, the United States was engaged in its war for independence. I note that the American Continental Army, now the United States Army, was established by the Continental Congress, just 2 years earlier on June 14, 1775. I express my congratulations to the United States Army on its 225th birthday.

At the start of that war, American colonists fought under a variety of local flags. The Continental Colors, or Grand Union Flag, was the unofficial national flag from 1775-1777. This flag had thirteen alternating red and white stripes, with the English flag in the upper left corner.

Following the publication of the Declaration of Independence, it was no longer appropriate to fly a banner containing the British lion. Accordingly, on June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress passed a resolution that “the Flag of the United States be 13 stripes alternate red and white, and the Union be 13 stars white in a blue field representing a new constellation.”

The 13 stripes original colonies, were similar to the five red and four white stripes on the flag of the Sons of Liberty, an early colonial flag. The stars of the first national flag of 1777 were arranged in a variety of patterns. The most popular design placed the stars in alternating rows of three or two stars. Another flag placed twelve stars in a circle with the thirteenth star in the center. A new popular image of a flag that day, although it was rarely used at the time, placed the thirteen stars in a circle.

As our country has grown, the Stars and Stripes have undergone necessary modifications. Alterations include the addition, then deletion, of stripes; and the addition and rearrangement of the field of stars.

While our Star-Spangled Banner has seen changes, the message it represents is constant. That message is one of patriotism and respect, wherever the flag is flown flying. Henry Ward Beecher, a prominent 19th century clergyman and lecturer stated, “A thoughtful mind, when it sees a nation’s flag, sees not the flag only, but the nation itself; and whatever may be its symbols, its insignia, he reads chiefly in the flag the Government, the principles, the truths, and the history which belong to the nation that sets it forth.”

Old Glory represents the land, the people, the government and the ideals of the United States, no matter when or where it is displayed throughout the world—in land battle, the first such occurrence being August 16, 1777 at the Battle of Bennington; or on a U.S. Navy ship, such as the Ranger, under the command of John Paul Jones in November 1777; or in Antarctica, in 1840, on the pilot boat Flying Fish of the Charles Wilkes expedition.

The flag has proudly represented our Republic beyond the Earth and into the heavens. The stirring images of Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin saluting the flag on the moon, on July 20, 1969 moved the Nation to new heights of patriotism and national pride.

Today we pause to commemorate our Nation’s most clear symbol—our flag—its representation, modifications, and legacy. While our Star-Spangled Banner has seen changes, the message it represents is constant. We should, I think, accommodate our distinguished colleagues who have been waiting—

Mr. REID. Twenty minutes.

Mr. WARNER. Twenty minutes.

Mr. REID. Twenty minutes be allocated to our distinguished colleague, Senator BYRD, and then the morning would flow in morning business until 11 o’clock.

Mr. REID. All the reservations that were announced would be subject to the unanimous consent request that has been propounded?

Mr. WARNER. That is correct.

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

Finally, as we commemorate the heritage our flag represents, may we as a nation acknowledge not only our flag, but also our efforts to furthering the standards represented by its colors—courage, virtue, perseverance, and justice. Through these universal concepts, We the People can ensure better lives for ourselves and our children, for these are the characteristics of greatness. In doing so, we can move closer to the goal so well stated by Daniel Webster at the laying of the cornerstone of the Bunker Hill Monument on June 17, 1825. On that occasion he said:

Let our object be our country, our whole country, and nothing but our country. And, by the blessing of God, may that country itself become a vast and splendid monument, not of oppression and terror, but of Wisdom, of Peace, and of Liberty, upon which the world may gaze with admiration forever.

I have long supported legislation which imposes penalties on anyone who knowingly misrepresents, defaces or buries, tramples upon, or physically defiles any U.S. flag. I have also supported a constitutional amendment to grant Congress and the States the power to