SENATE—*Monday, June 19, 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:

God of power and providence, we begin this week of work in the Senate with Your assurance: ''I will not leave nor forsake you. Be strong and of good courage.''—Joshua 1:5–6.

You have chosen to be our God and elected us to be Your servants. You are the sovereign Lord of this Nation and have designated our country to be a land of righteousness, justice, and freedom. Your glory fills this historic Chamber.

Through Your grace, You never give up on us. With Your judgment, You hold us accountable to the absolutes of Your Ten Commandments. In Your mercy, You forgive us when we fail. By Your Spirit, You give us strength and courage.

You also call us to maintain unity in the midst of differing solutions to the problems that the Senators must address together. Guide their discussions and debates this week. When debate has ended and votes have been counted, enable the Senators to press on to the work ahead with unity. We pray this in our Lord's name. 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.

SCHEDULE

Mr. KYL. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 3 p.m. with Senators DURBIN and THOMAS in control of the time.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill. By previous consent, at 3 p.m. Senators HATCH and KENNEDY will be recognized to offer their amendments regarding hate crimes. Those amendments will be debated simultaneously during today's session.

When the Senate convenes on Tuesday, Senator DODD will offer his amendment to the Defense authorization bill regarding a Cuba commission.

Those votes, along with the vote on the Murray amendment regarding abortions, are scheduled to occur in a stacked series on Tuesday at 3:15 p.m.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois is recognized.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is my understanding that the Democratic side under my control has morning business for the next hour, until 2 p.m. Is that correct?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

Mr. DURBIN. I thank the President very much.

COLOMBIAN DRUG TRADE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today having arrived back in the country in the early morning hours from a trip which I took to Colombia this weekend with Senator JACK REED of Rhode Island. I had never been to this country before. In fact, I had never been to South America. But I have come to understand, as most Americans do, that what is happening in that country thousands of miles away has a direct impact on the quality of life in America.

Senator REED and I spent a little over 2 days there in intense meetings with the President of Colombia, the Secretary of Defense, and the head of the national police. We met with human rights groups.

It is hard to imagine, but yesterday we were in the southern reaches of Colombia in a province known as Putumayo, which is the major cocaine-producing section of South America in Colombia.

It was a whirlwind visit but one that I think is timely, because there is a request by the Clinton administration to appropriate over $1 billion for what is known as ''Plan Colombia.'' Plan Colombia is an effort by the President of Colombia, Andres Pastrana, to try to take the control of his country away from the guerrillas and the right-wing terrorists, and try to put an end to the narcotrafficking.

The narcotrafficking out of Colombia is primarily cocaine, but it includes heroin. It is now estimated that Colombia supplies 85 to 95 percent of the world's supply of cocaine. How does that affect America? I think we all know very well how it affects America.

In my home State of Illinois, the prison population has dramatically increased over the last few years at great cost to the taxpayers in an effort to reduce drug crime in the streets of my State. That story is repeated over and over in States across the Nation.

So what is happening in the jungles of Colombia in the cultivation of cocaine has a direct impact on the quality of life in America. That is why President Pastrana has called for a coordinated effort by the United States and the European powers as well to bring his country under control and to end the narcotrafficking. It hits quite a resounding note with most Americans.

You would not imagine what it was like yesterday flying over the jungles of Colombia to look down from a Blackhawk helicopter as a Colombian general pointed out to me all of the coca fields that were under cultivation in the jungle.

If you take a step back, we now have the capacity by satellite to take photographs of Colombia, and we can actually pick out where the cocaine fields are located by satellite imagery. When they produce these maps, which I saw over the weekend, you can see provinces such as Putumayo that are virtually covered with cocaine production.

What is the cocaine production worth to the locals? Some estimate that a given hectare, or 2.2 acres roughly, can produce some 8.6 kilograms of cocaine during the course of a year. That involves about six harvests. A kilogram is a little over 2 pounds. So you are producing about 17 pounds of cocaine on each 1 of these hectares.

What is it worth to the local farmer? He receives about $900 for each kilogram. As you multiply it out, you realize it is a profitable undertaking for many.

Then if you want to understand the true value of the cocaine economics, consider that as it moves up the chain, it becomes more and more expensive. The guerrilla who takes the cocaine out of the fields from the landowner and the farmer is going to turn around and turn it into coca paste, a rough paste. It is now going to increase the value from $900 up to over $1,000.

The next move is to the trafficker who converts it into the white powder, and that will triple the value of it to some $3,000 for 2 pounds.

Now it is headed to the clandestine airstrip where it is going to be shipped to the United States, and in that process maybe go through Mexico, wherever it might be, on its way to the

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