

SENATE—Friday, July 27, 2001

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Presiding Officer, the Honorable JEAN CARNAHAN, a Senator from the State of Missouri.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we dedicate this day to discern and do Your will. We trust in You, dear Father, and ask You to continue to bless America through the leadership of the women and men of this Senate. Help them as they grapple with the problems and grasp the potential for the crucial issues before them today.

You provide us strength for the day, guidance in our decisions, vision for the way, courage in difficulties, help from above, unfailing empathy, and unlimited love. You never leave us or forsake us; nor do You ask of us more than You will provide the resources to accomplish. So, here are our minds, think Your thoughts in them; here are our hearts, express Your love and encouragement through them; here are our voices, speak Your truth through them. For You are our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEAN CARNAHAN 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 27, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JEAN CARNAHAN, a Senator from the State of Missouri, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. CARNAHAN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of H.R. 2299, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: A bill (H.R. 2299) making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Murray/Shelby amendment No. 1025, in the nature of a substitute.

Murray/Shelby amendment No. 1030 (to amendment No. 1025), to enhance the inspection requirements for Mexican motor carriers seeking to operate in the United States and to require them to display decals.

Gramm amendment No. 1168 (to amendment No. 1030), to prevent violations of United States commitments under the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, the majority leader has asked I advise everyone that the Senate will resume consideration of the Transportation Appropriations Act under postcloture conditions. Cloture was invoked yesterday by a margin of 70–30.

We hope to be able to work out an agreement on this matter today, if possible. If we can't, we would have a vote tonight on the matter now before the Senate dealing with cloture at approximately 8:45. There will be votes throughout the day on other matters if we are not able to work something out.

As we announced yesterday, we very much hope we can move to the agricultural emergency supplemental authorization bill. It is extremely important that be done prior to the August recess. We also have, as my friend, the ranking member of the Banking Committee, knows, concern about moving forward on the Export Administration Act, which also should be done before our August recess because that law expires in mid-August. The high-tech industry throughout America has been calling our offices asking that we do this. With the slowdown of the high-tech industry, we need to move this legislation.

As I indicated, there will be rollcall votes throughout the day. We hope we can move forward on other matters, but we understand the Senate rules and will abide by whatever Senators MCCAIN and GRAMM think is necessary.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, the Senate is now considering the

Transportation appropriations bill that has now been before the Senate for a week. There are a number of provisions in this bill that are extremely important to our Nation's infrastructure. This is a bill that I have been very proud to work on in a bipartisan way with the ranking member of my committee, Senator SHELBY. I will take a moment this morning to recognize the tremendous work and help of Senator SHELBY and his staff and our staff. They have spent long nights negotiating this bill this week, working to a point where we could get this bill out and do it in a way that provides the infrastructure we think is so important, whether it is for our airports, our railroads, whether it is for our roads or waterways.

There are extremely important provisions in this bill for many Members of the Senate. We have had considerable requests from every Member of the Senate for important infrastructure improvements in their State. I am very proud of the work Senator SHELBY and I have done. We have worked extremely hard for the last 5 months to put this bill together. I think we have done a very good job. We have met and exceeded every request of this President, unlike the House, and we have done a good job, I believe, of meeting the transportation requirements of every Senator who has come to us.

I was pleased yesterday we were able to come to cloture on this measure on a very strong vote from the Senate of 70–30. I realize there are some Members of the Senate who think the provisions do not meet their requirements, but I think we have done a very good job of not doing what the House did, which was to absolutely prohibit any truck from coming across the border, and not do what the President has asked, which was to simply open up the borders and let trucks come through at will, but to put together a comprehensive piece of legislation which I believe will clearly mean we will be able to have a bill that is passed that assures constituents, whether they live in Washington State or constituents living in border States, when they see a truck with a Mexican license plate, they will know that truck has been inspected, that its driver has a good record, that it is safe to be on our highways, as we now require of Canadian trucks and American trucks.

Can we do better for all trucks on our highways? Absolutely. But it is clear we need to make sure, as NAFTA provisions go into place and we do start getting cross-border traffic, we can assure our moms who are driving kids to