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PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 107th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

SENATE—Monday, July 30, 2001

The Senate met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. BYRD].

PRAYER

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

Almighty God, You have told us that to whom much is given much is required. Thank You that You have taught us also that to whom much is required, much shall be given. Lord, You require a great deal of the women and men of this Senate. Provide them with an extra measure of Your strength, wisdom, and discernment for the crucial work of this week. Help them to know what You want and then to want what they know; to say what they mean and mean what they say. Give them resoluteness and intentionality. Free them to listen to You so intently that they can speak with courage and conviction. Keep them in the battle for truth. In Your all-powerful name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 2 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the first half hour is for that of the Democrats. The second half hour is for that of the Republicans. We are going to have time evenly divided between 2:30 and 5:30 on the motion to proceed to the emergency Agriculture supplemental authorization bill.

The majority leader has directed me to announce to everybody that we have a schedule this week that we must complete. We have to complete work on this very important Agriculture supplemental. It is an emergency measure that is very important to the country. We have the VA-HUD appropriations bill to complete. We have to complete the work of the past week on the Transportation appropriations bill. Also, we must do the Export Administration Act.

The reason we must complete the Agricultural Assistance Emergency Act is because, if we don't, we lose funding. It is targeted so that if this money is not spent prior to the first of September, it is basically lost for the farmers of this country, and that would be a real disaster.

The reason we must complete the Export Administration Act—the most important piece of legislation the high-tech industry has this year—is because this act expires in the middle of next month. Even if we extend it, it is not anything that will help the high-tech industry. We need to change the basic foundation of the act because what is happening is American companies are having to go overseas to start manufacturing these products because some of the real simple pieces of equipment that can be bought at Radio Shack, such as the PalmPilot that I use, people say is in violation of the present act. We need to be able to sell these export products to foreign countries, where about half of our market is.

The Transportation appropriations bill—the leader indicated that sometime this week he will call for another cloture vote. Based upon prior votes on this matter, cloture should be passed—cloture should take effect, and we would have 30 hours after that.

We have a tremendous amount of work to do this week prior to the August recess. I hope that we can complete all of these things in a timely fashion. As soon as we complete them, we can start the August recess. Until we do that, it will be difficult to do.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 1:30 p.m. shall be under the control of the Senator from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN, or his designee.

Also, under the order previously entered, the time until 2 p.m. shall be under the control of the Senator from Iowa, Mr. GRASSLEY, or his designee.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, one of the things I want to visit about this morning is something I read in the morning newspapers; that is, there is now another effort being made to pass a constitutional amendment to balance the budget. I hope that people will get a new page in their song book. We have danced that tune. We have had long hours and days of debate in the Senate on a constitutional amendment to balance the budget.

From the information I have received, they still want to do it using the Social Security surpluses. It seems to me that we have done very well without a constitutional amendment to balance the budget. When this debate started, as you will recall, based upon the beginnings of the Reagan administration, there was an effort to cut taxes and increase spending. That was a recipe for disaster. We now have a debt of about \$5 trillion as a result of that. We have now, it seems, the same basic scenario. There is being an effort

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