

SENATE—Wednesday, August 1, 2001

The Senate met at 10 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. BYRD].

PRAYER

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

Gracious Father, great is Your faithfulness. All that we have and are is Your gift to us. Gratitude is the memory of the heart. We remember Your goodness to us in the friends and fellow workers who enrich our lives.

Today we want to thank You for those who make it possible for this Senate to do its work so effectively. We praise You for the parliamentarians and clerks, the staff in the cloakrooms, the reporters of debate, the doorkeepers, Capitol Police, elevator operators, food service personnel, and those in environmental services. And Lord, the Senators would be the first to express gratitude for their own staffs who make it possible for them to accomplish their work.

As a Senate family we join in deep appreciation and affirmation of Elizabeth Letchworth as at the end of August she retires as Secretary for the Minority. We praise You for this distinguished leader, outstanding professional, loyal friend to so many, and faithful employee of the Senate for 26 years. From her years as a Senate page to the position of an officer of the Senate, and in all the significant positions she has held in between, she has displayed a consistent dedication to You and patriotism in her service to our Nation through her work in the Senate. Bless her and her husband, Ron, as they begin a new phase in the unfolding adventure of their lives. Lord, thank You for the privilege of work and good friends with whom we share the joy of working together. You are our Lord and Saviour. 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, leadership time is reserved.

EMERGENCY AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2001

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the order previously entered, the Sen-

ate will now resume consideration of S. 1246, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1246) to respond to the continuing economic crisis adversely affecting American agricultural producers.

Pending:

Lugar amendment No. 1212, in the nature of a substitute.

Voinovich amendment No. 1209, to protect the Social Security surpluses by preventing on-budget deficits.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip, the Senator from Nevada, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Senate will resume consideration of the Agriculture supplemental authorization bill. But at 11 o'clock this morning we will vote on cloture on the Transportation Appropriations Act, which has been pending for some time. The Senate will remain on the Transportation act until it is completed. Senator DASCHLE has also said that this week we are going to complete the Agriculture supplemental authorization, the VA-HUD appropriations, and the Export Administration Act.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 102 (S. 1246) a bill to respond to the continuing economic crisis adversely affecting American farmers:

Tom Harkin, Harry Reid, Jon Corzine, Max Baucus, Patty Murray, Jeff Bingaman, Tim Johnson, Edward M. Kennedy, John D. Rockefeller, Daniel K. Akaka, Paul D. Wellstone, Mark Dayton, Maria Cantwell, Benjamin E. Nelson, Blanche L. Lincoln, Richard J. Durbin, Herb Kohl.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, it is with regret that we are filing this cloture motion this morning. Obviously, it won't ripen until Friday. I don't know that there is any debate about the importance of getting this legislation finished. This is an emergency. This is a commitment that we must make prior to the time we leave, in

large measure because the Congressional Budget Office has indicated they will not score it as money that can be utilized. We would not be able to commit the money prior to the time we leave.

We all know the stakes. But when Senators come to the floor and offer amendments on Medicare lockboxes on an emergency issue such as this, it is a clear indication that we are not really very serious about finishing this legislation on time.

I reluctantly will also ask for a vote to reconsider the Transportation appropriations bill at 11 o'clock this morning. That will at least temporarily take us off of Agriculture and move us back onto the highway legislation, the Transportation appropriations bill, because that, too, is a critical piece of legislation that has to be addressed before we leave. We have made that very clear.

I tell all of my colleagues that there will be no respite tonight, if Senators choose to use the full 30 hours, which is their right, prior to the time we go to final passage. We will be in all night long. There is no other recourse.

I want to put my colleagues on notice that will happen. I regret the inconvenience, but that is what we will have to do in order for us to finish this bill.

It is my expectation that if that also happens while we continue to negotiate to find some solution to this Agriculture bill—and let me applaud him while he is on the floor. The chairman has done an outstanding job of getting us to this point. And I, as always, have great admiration for our ranking Member of this committee as well. We couldn't have two better legislative partners than the two of them.

I am hopeful that over the period of time we are now debating the Transportation appropriations bill, and maybe even the VA-HUD bill, we can come to some resolution on this question. But clearly, no one should misinterpret what we are going to be doing this morning. We will continue to be on this bill for whatever length of time it takes to complete it and to do it right. I regret that it may be Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. But if that is the case, that is exactly what we are going to have to do.

I want to make sure that Members understand this delay is unfortunate. We are not apparently serious enough if we are going to be making up lockbox amendments. We have to use this time as productively as possible.

It seems to me that the best way to do that is to now take up the highway