

SENATE—Monday, September 24, 2001

The Senate met at 12 noon 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, source of all our blessings, we are amazed as we check the balance in our spiritual bank account. We begin this new week realizing that You have made an immense deposit of grace, strength, wisdom, and courage in our hearts. And what's exciting is that You constantly will replenish our depleted resources throughout this week. Your love has no limits, Your spiritual resiliency has no energy crisis, Your hope has no restrictions, and Your power has no ending.

Free us from the false assumption that we are adequate for life's challenges on our own. You promise to go before us. We will encounter no problem for which You have not prepared a solution; we will deal with no person whom You have not prepared to receive a blessing from You through us; we will face no challenge for which You will not make us capable for courageous leadership.

Now, dear God, help the Senators use the abundant blessings You have lavished on them because You have placed them in leadership to get Your work done for our beloved Nation and the welfare of the world. 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, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today there will be 2 hours of debate on the Jordan Free Trade Area Implementation Act. We are going to have our first rollcall vote at or near 2 p.m. today on the nomination of Kirk Van Tine to be the general counsel at the Department of Transportation.

Following that, the Senate is going to resume consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill. I have had a number of conversations this morning with the chairman of the committee and the majority leader, Senator DASCHLE and Senator LEVIN. Although I have not spoken to Senator WARNER, I am confident he also believes we should complete this legislation as quickly as possible. It is the intent of the leader to finish this legislation tomorrow. There are a number of amendments that need to be brought forward, one of which deals with base closings, and we would hope that could be done as quickly as possible.

Also, Mr. President, the two managers of the bill will ask for a time for disposing of the amendments, either a finite list or something that would give the managers of the bill some idea of what amendments Members are wanting to offer. Also, because of this very short week which is going to end Wednesday at 2 o'clock because of the Jewish holiday, Yom Kippur, it is important we complete the continuing resolution to get us through the first couple weeks of next month so we can go forward working on appropriations bills.

I am happy to report to the membership that the House has appointed a number of conference committees on the appropriations bills, and that is a good sign that we can move forward in the usual process. I hope by the time we have run out of time on the continuing resolution, we will have made great progress in our appropriations bills. We would ask cooperation of all Members. This is going to be a very jampacked week. The leader has indicated there may be other things he wishes to bring up in addition to the CR and the Defense bill.

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR—S. 1447

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand that S. 1447 is now at the desk and due for its second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

Mr. REID. I would ask that S. 1447 be read for a second time and then, Mr. President, I would object to any further proceedings on the legislation at this time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill [S. 1447] to improve aviation security, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. There being no objection to any further pro-

ceedings, the bill will go on the calendar.

UNITED STATES-JORDAN FREE TRADE AREA IMPLEMENTATION ACT

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Finance Committee will now be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2603, and the Senate will now proceed to its consideration.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill [H.R. 2603] to implement the agreement establishing a United States-Jordan free trade area.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 hours of debate on the bill with 1 hour under the control of the Senator from Texas, Mr. GRAMM, and 1 hour under the control of the Senator from Montana, Mr. BAUCUS, or his designee.

What is the will of the Senate? Time is running.

The Senator from Montana, Mr. BAUCUS.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise to urge the adoption of H.R. 2603. That is a bill to implement the United States-Jordan Free Trade Agreement. The House passed the bill by a voice vote just before the August recess. The Finance Committee reported a virtually identical bill, also immediately before the August recess. Only two Members dissented when the Finance Committee reported that bill out.

I have advocated the approval of this agreement since it was negotiated by the Clinton administration last year. Finally, after a number of hitches, a number of setbacks, the administration and Congress appear poised to give final approval to the United States-Jordan Free Trade Agreement.

This implementing bill sends an unmistakable signal of support for an important friend, an important ally in the Middle East. That signal was important when the agreement was signed last October. It is even more important now. Jordan has been a steadfast friend in its support for the United States' efforts to bring peace to the Middle East. We all remember the critical role played by King Hussein a few years ago. King Abdullah has maintained that support.

As we all know, Jordan has been steadfast in its support for America in the wake of the terrorist attacks against us. In a September 12 letter to President Bush, the King condemned the attacks and pledged Jordan's support in our fight against terrorism. As