

Senate—Monday, October 15, 2001

The Senate met at 3:30 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:

Loving Father, as the war against terrorism continues, and now takes on even more immediate dangers here in the United States Senate, we cry out to You for Your protection and Your power. Protect the Senators and all of us who work with and for them from the insidious threats of bio-terrorism. Calm our nerves; replace panic with Your peace. Especially we pray for our Majority Leader TOM DASCHLE and his staff in this time of examination of the possible threat to their health from today's incident. Help us all to be alert to further dangers, but give us courage to press on in our work with a renewed commitment to serve our Nation here in the Senate with even greater patriotism than ever before. You have promised to be with us in our times of greatest need. We need You now, dear God. 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.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair, on behalf of the Republican leader, pursuant to Public Law 100-696, announces the appointment of the Senator from Utah, Mr. BENNETT, as a member of the United States Capitol Preservation Commission; vice the Senator from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN.

The Chair, pursuant to Public Law 100-696, appoints the following Senators as members of the United States Capitol Preservation Commission:

The Senator from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN; vice the Senator from Utah, Mr. BENNETT.

The Senator from Nevada, Mr. REID; vice the Senator from Ohio, Mr. DEWINE.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, first of all, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 4:30 this afternoon. At 4:30, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 2506, the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, with the time until 5:30 evenly divided between the chairman, Senator LEAHY, and the ranking member, Senator MCCONNELL. We will have a cloture vote at 5:30.

THE RECENT FOCUS ON ISLAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, during this time of trouble, since September 11, there has been a lot of attention focused on Islam. I can say that I have had some exposure to this religion. It is a religion that builds great character. It is a religion that has a very fine health code. It is basically a very good religion. My wife, who has had some illness in her time, has two physicians who are Muslims. They are wonderful men. They are close friends. One is an internist and one is a surgeon. Her family physician—the person who takes care of her more often than not—is Dr. Anwar. Her surgeon is Dr. Khan. I have been in their homes on several occasions, going back almost 20 years—well, more than that, 25 years. We are social friends. I have had the pleasure of going to their beautiful new mosque in Las Vegas, where these two men and their families worship.

We in America, this past 4 weeks, have come to better understand this religion. But we have a lot more that we need to understand. I received a letter—and I am sure other Senators received the same letter—which I would like to read into the RECORD. It is a letter addressed to me, dated September 14, 2001. It says:

Honorable Senator: We are writing this letter in light of the horrific tragedy that struck America on September 11, 2001. We would like to extend our heartfelt sympathies and condolences to families of all civilians and rescue workers who lost their loved ones in the tragedy. May Allah bless

them and give them courage during this time of grief and extreme sadness. We also pray for the steady and early recovery of individuals who suffered injuries as a result of the incident.

We would like you to know that although perpetrators of such heinous crimes more often than not justify these acts in the name of religion, we do not support their ideas. Islam for instance, condemns senseless acts of violence against fellow human beings. As the Qur'an so aptly states in Chapter 5, vs. 32, "For that cause we decreed for the children of Israel that whosoever killeth a human being for other than manslaughter or corruption in the earth, it shall be as if he had killed all mankind, and whoso saveth the life of one, it shall be as if he had saved the life of all mankind." All in all, Islam values human life and applauds its preservation rather than its destruction. It is a religion that preaches peace, love, justice and tolerance for people from all walks of life.

Moreover, we would like to clarify a misconception that many people harbor in their minds about Islam. Islam is not a religion that was founded by Prophet Muhammad rather, it is a continuation of the earlier Revelations that were made to Prophets Abraham (Ibrahim), David (Dawood), Moses (Musa) and Jesus (Issa) in the Torah and the Bible, Prophet Mohammed was the last Prophet though whom the Final Revelation was made—that Final Revelation is the Qur'an. On that note, please accept the enclosed copy of the Holy Qur'an as a token of our support.

I do have that and I have read part of that since having received it.

The letter goes on:

Finally, we would like to applaud the tireless rescue efforts that have been underway for the past few days and also pray for all those who are involved in this mission and wish them every success.

Signed by Aunali Khalfan, who is with the Tahrike Tarsile Qur'an, Inc., based in Elmhurst, NY.

I believed it was appropriate to spread across the RECORD of this Senate this very thoughtful letter that I received hoping it will lead to a better understanding of this very fine religion which 6 million Americans follow, the teachings of Islam.

I ask unanimous consent—I see my friend from Alaska here—that I be allowed 10 more minutes to complete a statement on another subject.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Hearing no objection, the Senator from Nevada is recognized for 10 additional minutes.

SENATE BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last week the Senate continued demonstrating its resolve to move forward in a bipartisan manner, following on the footsteps of the resolution allowing force,