

SENATE—Wednesday, October 17, 2001

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable E. BENJAMIN NELSON, a Senator from the State of Nebraska.

PRAYER

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

Gracious Father, whom we need each is to love and whom to love is to serve, we ask for a fresh empowering of Your Spirit today. Renew in us the excitement of being partners with You in bringing Your best for America. We are here by Your divine appointment. Therefore, we need not fear; You will supply exactly what we need each hour of this day. Replenish our enthusiasm. May we do old duties with new delight. Revive our expectation. You have plans for us and the power to accomplish them. Regenerate our hope.

Make us hopeful people who expect great strength from You and attempt great strategies for You. Fill this Chamber with Your presence and each Senator and all of us privileged to be a part of the Senate family. Replenish our inner wells with Your peace that passes understanding. We claim Your promise through Isaiah, *Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God, I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.* Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable E. BENJAMIN NELSON 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 assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, October 17, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable E. BENJAMIN NELSON, a Senator from the State of Nebraska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

TERRORISM IN THE OFFICE OF SENATOR DASCHLE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I certainly do not have all the details, but we do know that more than 20 people in Senator DASCHLE's office have been infected with anthrax. The tests have come back positive.

Senator DASCHLE had a meeting at the White House early this morning, and he has been meeting with his staff since he came back. I have not had an opportunity to speak with him. My heart goes out to Senator DASCHLE. I have spent a great deal of time with him and know what a caring person he is and how much he cares about his staff. I spend a great deal of time with his staff as a result of working with him on matters relating to the activities of the Senate. He has a wonderful staff. Sometimes I feel they are my staff. I am very close to Senator DASCHLE's staff.

I can imagine the heartbreak he is experiencing as a result of these people going through this personal turmoil as a result of working for him. I know I speak for the entire Senate when I say that our thoughts and our prayers go out to Senator DASCHLE personally, his lovely wife Linda, and his entire staff that this will be of short duration. We have been told the sickness they have will be of short duration. Certainly, the medicine that is available will cure the problems that are present. We are fortunate we do have the medicine available to do this.

My thoughts cannot contemplate the evil nature of such an act on innocent people working in Senator DASCHLE's office opening mail, answering constituent mail, doing those activities that one does working for a public servant. A lot of them are very young.

This is a tremendously evil act. I hope these people will be brought to justice; that the full weight of this Government will be used to search out these people who would perpetrate this evil through this diabolical scheme they engendered. I do not know what satisfaction they get out of doing such acts.

We are the greatest country in the history of the world. We are far from perfect, but certainly we are going to overcome this. It is a very small setback, and we will proceed stronger than ever.

Again, my heart is overwhelmed today with a feeling of anxiety and sadness for the majority leader of the Senate for the burden he has recognizing that because he is who he is, people in his office are sick. I know him and know how much heartache this causes him.

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR—H.R. 2646

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand H.R. 2646 is at the desk and is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2646) to provide for the continuation of agricultural programs through fiscal year 2011.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I object to any further proceedings.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the rule, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, my friend from Wyoming is in the Chamber. If he has some remarks, he can certainly proceed; otherwise, I am going to ask we go into a quorum call at this time. We are going to shortly recess until after the 10:30 a.m. briefing.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Nevada for his remarks this morning. Certainly we all have very strong feelings and sympathy for what is happening. My office happens to be one of the offices that is closed as well. I have a strong feeling about what is happening as well.

Mr. President, we should just go into a quorum call and go to our 10:30 a.m. meeting without further ado.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant 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.

RECESS SUBJECT TO THE CALL OF THE CHAIR

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 10:10 a.m., recessed subject to the