

SENATE—Friday, November 16, 2001

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JON S. CORZINE, a Senator from the State of New Jersey.

PRAYER

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

Gracious God, Sovereign of this land, we enter into the season of thanksgiving with a great need for spiritual renewal that takes place when we return to an attitude of gratitude. In the midst of the problems we face at this time, we need the refreshing rejuvenation that comes when we turn from our trials and focus on thanksgiving for all blessings. You have shown us that gratitude is not only the greatest of all virtues but the parent of all others. Any achievement without gratitude limps along the road of life; anything we accomplish without giving thanks becomes a source of pride. You desire our gratitude because You know it helps us grow; other people never tire of feeling the affirmation that is communicated when we express our thankfulness for them; and we require gratitude to avoid being self-serving and arrogant.

O God, we praise You for this Nation of freedom and democracy. We repent of our pride that entertains the idea that we are in charge of the destiny of this land. Grant us the true humility that comes from acknowledging that You are the source of all we have and are. Now we are ready to thank You in advance for Your help in the resolution of the problems we face in this present crisis. In the Name of the Lord. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JON S. CORZINE 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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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, November 16, 2001.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JON S. CORZINE, a Senator from the State of New Jersey, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CORZINE thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have been asked to announce by Senator DASCHLE, the majority leader, that we are going to be in a period of morning business. Senators are going to speak for up to 10 minutes each. There will be no rollcall votes today. There will be no rollcall votes until 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, November 27.

Last night, the Senate agreed by unanimous consent to limit debate on the conference report to accompany S. 1447, the aviation security bill, which everyone worked so hard on all week. Debate time will be limited to 90 minutes. Upon the use or yielding back of that time, the conference report will be adopted.

The managers are expected momentarily to begin discussion of this most important piece of legislation.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 2873

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I understand that H.R. 2873 is at the desk and is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The leader is correct.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent H.R. 2873 be read for a second time, and I then object to do any further proceedings at this time.

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

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2873) to extend and amend the program entitled Promoting Safe and Stable Families under title IV-B, subpart 2, of the Social Security Act, and to provide new authority to support programs for mentoring children of incarcerated parents; to amend the Foster Care Independent Living program under title IV-E of that Act to provide for educational and training vouchers for youths aging out of foster care, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING 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.

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.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Texas is recognized.

AFGHAN WOMEN AND CHILDREN RELIEF ACT OF 2001

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, we are all awaiting the bill that we have all worked so hard to produce this week, the Aviation Security Act. I will not speak about that act because, obviously, we have others who have worked very hard on the bill. We want to make sure that everyone is able to speak for or against it before we pass it. But the good news is, we are going to pass it.

I did want to take this opportunity, though, during morning business to mention a bill that passed last night. It is a bill that was cosponsored by every woman in the Senate. There are 13 women in the Senate. All of us cosponsored this bill. It is to make sure that the Congress speaks on the priorities that we believe are imperative as we give aid to Afghanistan, that women be included in that aid.

As so many of us know, the Taliban treated women especially cruelly, not allowing them access to health care. Not allowing a male doctor to see a woman effectively kept women out of the system because women are not allowed to work, and therefore female doctors are not allowed to practice under the Taliban.

In addition, women have not been able to go outside their homes without a male escort, so many times a widow would not be able to get the food necessary to feed her children or the health care for her children.

Women were not allowed to be educated under the Taliban, so we see 5- and 6-year-old girls who have had no education whatsoever because they have lived under the Taliban regime.

The bill that passed unanimously in the Senate last night spoke to those issues to say we want United States aid to be especially there for the people of Afghanistan as we rebuild the country.

We are seeing the Taliban flee. Thank goodness they are fleeing. But we want to make sure that we start playing catchup, that we give women and young girls the chance to be educated along with the young boys, that we bring women doctors in especially to give access to health care for the women of Afghanistan.

The mortality rate of children in Afghanistan is stunning. It is 25 percent. The mortality rate for children in that country is 25 percent. The major cause of that mortality rate, in the 21st century, is contaminated food and water. That is the most stunning statistic of all. In the 21st century, when clean water and uncontaminated food is universally available throughout the world, that 25 percent of the children would be dying from dysentery and contaminated food and bad water is just the saddest of all statistics.

So we do want to go in fast and try to stem the tide of the mortality of children and women, and make sure that young boys and young girls are treated equally in education, that women have a chance to participate in a new government that hopefully would be a government of the people of Afghanistan that includes all of the tribes of that country.

I am very proud that the women of the Senate came together to speak especially forcefully on this issue. We did pass the bill last night. So I am very pleased that we were able to persuade Senator WELLSTONE to raise his hold on the bill, which I thought was an unfair hold. I did not appreciate that he would take a bill such as this hostage for another bill that he had, but, nevertheless, he did, and so it took us 2 weeks to pass a bill which should have been passed in minutes.

Having said that, I do want to say, I am very proud of the women of the Senate for coming together to highlight this issue, to speak with one voice, and to say that U.S. aid will always be there for women as well as men on an equal basis, for girls as well as boys on an equal basis.

So I am proud that we passed the bill. It now goes to the House Representative DEBORAH PRYCE is working with Democratic and Republican women on the House side to try to see that this bill goes through on an expedited basis to support our President in putting forth more aid for Afghanistan that will be equally distributed among the population.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and 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. BOND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. DOMENICI and Mr. BOND pertaining to the introduction of S. 1717 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, if the Senator will yield, I ask unanimous consent that this Senator be recognized following the remarks of the Senator from Montana.

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

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak and use whatever time I may consume. I do not think I will go past 10 minutes.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Reserving the right to object, it is not my intention to object except that I understand Senator DORGAN sought, by unanimous consent, to be recognized. The bill is now here. I ask unanimous consent that there be no more than 10 minutes for each of the speakers so that we can get to the bill in due course.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. That is the current order. The Senator from Montana sought to modify that order. Is there objection?

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I believe the Senator from Montana will agree to speak for no more than 10 minutes, as will the Senator from North Dakota. Do they agree to speak no more than 10 minutes so we can get to the bill?

Mr. DORGAN. I agree to that request. I also want to speak on the bill. I understand when the bill arrives there will be comments by the chairman, by Senator HUTCHISON, and others. I want to make a comment about the farm bill. In fact, I will be glad to keep that to 10 minutes.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. It is important when the bill is ready that we proceed to it so we can pass it back to the House to stay on time.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I understand the airport security bill is ready. I am going to be speaking on something else, but it is my intent to allow the committee to proceed so the Senate can consider this bill. I am going to speak on the airport security legislation, but I will make the remarks on the farm bill following this action.

AVIATION AND TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ACT—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. HOLLINGS. Under a unanimous consent agreement, I call up the conference report on the bill, S. 1447, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1447), "to improve aviation security, and for other purposes," having met have agreed that the Senate recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the House, and agree to the same with an amendment, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will proceed to the consideration of the conference report.

(The report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of November 16, 2001.)

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there is now 90 minutes of debate evenly divided between the chairman and ranking member.

Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I first want to thank Sam Whitehorn, who is now changing clothes to come to the Chamber, and Kevin Kayes. Both Sam Whitehorn and Kevin Kayes are on my Commerce Committee staff. They have been working hard all night long, even with the breakdown of the computer at 5 a.m., to get these documents ready for consideration. They have been working over the past 6 weeks, ever since September 11.

Secondly, I thank the New York Times. The headline today is: "Congress Agrees to U.S. Takeover For Air Security." In a line, this will do more to stimulate air travel and rejuvenate the economy than any one single thing, and that is what we have been trying to do as well as institute safety.

I thank my distinguished counterpart, Senator MCCAIN, who has been sticking with us. We fought a good fight right down to the wire, and in a general sense we prevailed in that it is not a compromise on safety.

There is an old Roman canon, XII, *salus populi suprema lex esto*, "the safety of the people is the supreme law," and that is the way we approach this. We were not concerned about contractors; we were not concerned about flexibility; we were concerned about accountability; we were concerned about safety. There is just no way, and should not be, to compromise safety. That was the difficulty of this particular task.

It has been a long, hard road. I started on this effort over 20 years ago, back in the late 1980s with Pan Am 103, TWA 800, and on and on again. There were commissions, hearings, more hearings and commissions, standards, more training, more testing, more oversight, and on September 11 we ended up with criminals doing the screening and 5,000 dead.

So that sobered us up. Senator MCCAIN and I went right to work. We