

SENATE—Monday, March 12, 2001

The Senate met at 1 p.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:

Almighty God, today we claim the primary etymology of politics as the science of government. We praise You for the women and men of this Senate who have accepted politics as a high calling from You and use political process as a way to solve the perplexities of our time and ensure the full potential of Your plan for our beloved Nation. Help them to envision and enable Your very best for the spiritual and moral character of the United States. Help the Senators to confront the soul-sized issues that hold progress at bay. Grant them courage and power for the facing of this hour. May they lead a movement, rather than preserve a bureaucracy and turn to You for Your wisdom to tackle perplexities great and small. Help them to do that with a sense of mission and conviction that politics is a ministry ordained by You. In the Name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MARK DAYTON, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, 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. THURMOND].

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 12, 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.

STROM THURMOND,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 2 p.m. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 420, the Bankruptcy Reform Act. There are several amendments pending. Others are expected to be offered during today's session. Any votes ordered during today's session will be scheduled to occur tomorrow morning at 11 a.m.

As a reminder, the Conrad and Sessions amendments are scheduled for votes at 2:45 p.m. tomorrow. Senators should be aware that it is the intention of the majority leader and the managers of the bill to complete action on this bill by midweek.

I thank my colleagues for their cooperation.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. LUGAR. I am happy to yield.

Mr. REID. I say to my friend, I heard on Friday and I heard today that the leader would like to complete this legislation by Wednesday, the day after tomorrow. Friday was a day we didn't accomplish much. We should have. Amendments could have been offered. Today I hope people will take advantage of this afternoon to offer amendments. I do say, however, it will be extremely difficult to finish by midweek, which is Wednesday. I hope we can finish this week.

I was part of the conversation between the two leaders and they indicated they wanted to finish this bill by the end of this week. I think we can do it. We have pending over 100 amendments now. But some of those can be accepted. I understand, talking to some of the staff on Friday, they believe 15 or 20 can be accepted by the two managers, and some amendments, of course, won't be offered.

I do hope, though, people take advantage of this afternoon and this evening to offer amendments. Otherwise we simply will not be able to do that, and the leader has indicated he will file closure. That would be too bad because I think we can work our way through this bill.

I appreciate the Senator from Indiana yielding.

Mr. LUGAR. I endorse strongly the sentiments of the distinguished Senator from Nevada. I am certain the majority leader would concur with enthu-

siasm regarding working through the amendments quickly. The Senator from Nevada has always done so.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for not to extend beyond the hour of 2 p.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the following exceptions: Senator THOMAS or his designee for 30 minutes; Senator DURBIN or his designee for 30 minutes.

THE STOCKPILE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM AND THE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY REVISITED

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss a subject of major importance to the national security of the United States—the maintenance of our nuclear weapons stockpile.

For most of the nuclear age, the United States has relied on nuclear testing to ensure that our nuclear weapons remained safe, secure, and reliable. Our country conducted more than one thousand nuclear tests in furtherance of these goals. In July 1992, President George Bush announced that the United States would suspend underground testing. We initiated the Stockpile Stewardship Program, which was designed to replace detonations at the Nevada Test Site with computer simulations.

In 1999, concerns about the Stockpile Stewardship Program were a critical element of the Senate debate over ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. It was unfortunate that the Senate was forced to take up the treaty in a highly politicized atmosphere. The CTBT was not a new subject, but in 1999, the Senate was not prepared to develop the consensus necessary to ratify a major treaty with far-reaching consequences for U.S. security.

I opposed ratification of the CTBT, because I did not believe that the treaty's verification and enforcement provisions would be successful. Equally important, I was concerned about our ability to maintain the integrity and safety of our nuclear arsenal under the conditions imposed by the treaty.

The United States must maintain a reliable nuclear deterrent for the foreseeable future. The end of the cold war provided tremendous national security benefits, but the necessity of our nuclear deterrent did not disappear. The transformation of the former Soviet

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.