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Senate

The Senate met at 10:15 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

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

Glory to God in the Highest, on earth, peace, good will toward men.—Luke 2:14.
Almighty God, we praise You for Your faithfulness. Now in this sacred season, we join with Jews all over the world as they light their menorahs and remember Your faithfulness in keeping the eternal light burning in the temple. We gather with Christians around a manger scene and praise You for Your faithfulness to send the Light of the world to dispel the darkness. Your indefatigable love is incredible. You never give up on us. You persistently pursue us offering us the way of peace to replace our perversity. You offer Your good will to replace our grim wilfulness. In spite of everything we do to break Your heart, here You are, once again sending Your angel to tell us of Your good will to all humankind, Your pleasure in us just as we are, and for all we were intended to be. Change all our grim bah humbugs into humble adoration.

Make us Your Christmas miracles. Help us to be as kind to others as You have been to us, to express the same respect and tolerance for the struggles of others as You have been to help us turn our struggles into stepping stones, to understand us as we wish to be under-

stood. Light up the candles of our heart, Lord, and help us shine with Your peace and good will. In the name of the Light of the world. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able majority leader, Senator DOLE, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, we will immediately begin 30 minutes of debate on the veto message on H.R. 1058, the securities litigation bill. Following that debate, we will begin 30 minutes on the welfare reform conference report. At approximately 11:15 we will begin two consecutive rollcall votes, first on the veto message, to be followed by a vote on the welfare reform conference report.

Following those votes, the Senate will turn to consideration of the START II Treaty. Additional votes are therefore possible today on that treaty or any other matter that may become available, including a CR, if one is received from the House—I do not think that will happen—a Veterans' continuing resolution, which is at the desk, and any other available conference reports.

I will just indicate that the leaders will start their meeting with the President at 12 o'clock today in an effort to make progress on the balanced budget

over the next 7 years. That meeting will last approximately 3 hours. I do not have any idea what may develop during that session, but at least it is another indication that some progress is being made. We are negotiating. I hope that we can come to some agreement soon. I yield the floor.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able minority leader is recognized.

SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM

Mr. DASCHLE. I wish the President pro tempore a good morning.

Mr. President, I would like to make a couple remarks, if I can, about the securities litigation reform legislation.

The bill before us highlights the real problem that faces companies when frivolous lawsuits are filed against them by lawyers for a quick profit. Our goal should be to address this problem without undermining the ability of investors to protect themselves against real fraud. Regrettably, the bill reported from conference goes too far, effectively closing the courthouse door on investors with legitimate claims.

While fixing the problem presented by frivolous lawsuits requires remedy, this bill goes beyond that and, as a result, leaves investors unprotected against fraud in many instances.

NOTICE

LOBBYING DISCLOSURE ACT OF 1995

A special joint notice from the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House concerning implementation of the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 (P.L. 104-65) appears in this issue of the Record following both the proceedings of the Senate and the House. See pages S19290-91 and H15634-35.

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



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