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Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, July 10, 1995)

The Senate met at 9 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

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

Almighty God, Sovereign of this Nation and personal Lord of our lives, we praise You for our accountability to You. You are a God of judgment as well as grace. If You did not care, life would have no meaning. We thank You that You have given us the basis on which we will be judged each hour, and at the end of each day. You want us to know what is required of us so we can pass Your daily examination with flying colors.

Your commandments are in force as much now as when You gave them to Moses. We also know that You require us to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You, attentively receptive to Your guidance. Integrity, honesty, faithfulness have not gone out of style; nor has absolute trust in You ceased to be the secret for personal peace and the basis of great leadership. Help us to live our Nation's motto, "in God we trust" and judge us by the extent we have put our trust in You for guidance in making our decisions.

Gracious God, as we receive Your judgment, we also seek Your forgiveness and a new beginning. So may Your forgiveness give us the courage to seek first Your rule and righteousness. In Your holy name. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, this morning the leader time has been reserved, and there will be a period for morning business until the hour of 10:45. At 10:45, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 343, the regulatory reform bill. Rollcall votes can be expected throughout today's session of the Senate.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 10:45 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for not to exceed 5 minutes each.

Under the previous order, the Senator from Wyoming [Mr. THOMAS] will be recognized to speak for up to 25 minutes.

FRESHMAN FOCUS

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, the 25 minutes has been reserved for Members of the freshman focus group, as we continue our effort to seek to focus some of the issues as they appear to those of us who are new to the Senate this year, who recently completed an election, who, I think, in some instances have a unique view of what we are doing or seeking to do here in the U.S. Senate. So I would like to take a few minutes. I will be joined by other Members.

Mr. President, I would like to talk just a little bit this morning about process. I admit to not knowing the rules of this place like some do. I seek to know them. I think I do understand that there is a difference between the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House and that they were designed to be different. This is a deliberative body. The rules are different, which provide for additional discussion and debate, and I un-

derstand that, and I think that is proper, certainly.

But, you know, we did not come here to procrastinate. We did not come here to extend debate for the purpose of extending debate. We came here for the purpose of thoroughly examining the issues that are before us, looking at the alternatives, and seeking, then, I think, to find some solutions. And that is what voting is all about. If you do not have enough votes, you lose. If you have enough votes, you win. And you go on to something else.

Mr. President, it seems to me it has become routine in this session of the Congress to extend, to amend, and to debate and, frankly, to stall. We have seen a great deal of that. Whether it is unfunded mandates, whether it is line-item veto, whether it is balanced budget amendment, whether it is telecommunications, whether it is product liability, we find this interminable number of amendments, many of which have already been done.

Yesterday was a good example. We had extended debate over an issue that had already, I think in almost anyone's mind, been resolved. But we went on. We now will have had 4 days of debate. This is an important issue. But everyone rises in the beginning and says: I want regulatory reform, but—but we want to do it in the right way. The right way is a pretty subjective kind of thing. What is right to you is not necessarily right to me.

So I guess I am expressing a certain amount of frustration, in that it seems to me we have accomplished a considerable amount in the Senate, but we have an awful lot before us. We have an opportunity in August to be home in our districts to talk to people about the direction this country ought to take, to talk to people about specific items. Frankly, that time in August is being constricted. I think it is almost certain we will not be available to go

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



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