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Senate

The Senate met at 10 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:

Andrew Jackson said, "Every good citizen makes his country's honor his own and cherishes it not only as precious but as sacred. He is willing to risk his life in its defense and is conscious that he gains protection while he gives it."

Gracious God, all through our history as a nation, You helped us battle the enemies of freedom and democracy. Many of the pages of our history are red with the blood of those who made the supreme sacrifice in just wars against tyranny. Those who survived the wars of the past half century are all our distinguished living heroes and heroines. They carry the honored title of veterans.

Tomorrow, we will set aside the day to express our debt of gratitude. We seek to make it a day of prayer for our Nation. Help us to commit ourselves anew to the battle for the realization of every aspect of Your vision for our Nation.

You have helped us conquer external enemies; now give us the same urgency in our internal battles against racial divisions instigated by any race or group. Renew our strength as we press on toward a truly integrated society with equal opportunity for all people. Make us one. Help us to press on in the American dream to banish vociferous expressions of hostility and hatred in our society. Make us all seasoned veterans in the daily struggle for righteousness in our land. In Your holy name. Amen.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 12 noon, with Senators permitted to speak therein for not to exceed 5 minutes each.

Under the previous order, the Senator from Alaska [Mr. MURKOWSKI] is recognized to speak for up to 20 minutes.

SCHEDULE

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I have been asked to make a statement on behalf of the leader.

This morning the leader's time has been reserved. There will be a period for morning business until the hour of about 12 noon today.

The majority leader has stated that following morning business, the Senate may begin consideration of the continuing resolution. The Senate may also consider the debt limit extension during today's session, and all Senators can, therefore, expect rollcall votes throughout the day and a late session may be necessary in order to complete action on any or all of these items. Definite announcements on the indefinite schedule will be forthcoming throughout the day.

ARCTIC OIL RESERVE

Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to continue a series of presentations I have made in this body concerning the opening of the Arctic oil reserve in ANWR.

Before I make a reference to the specifics, let me show you a map and share with you an observation relative to this huge landmass of Alaska, which is one-fifth the size of the United States. In the Arctic region, above the Arctic Circle facing the Arctic Ocean, we have a resident population of Eskimos. The primary area where they are concentrated is in Barrow. It moves down to Wainwright, Icy Cape, Point Lay, Kaktovik, over to the Canadian border.

They are a nomadic people that to a large degree depend on subsistence for a lifestyle, but as a consequence of the oil discovery in Prudhoe Bay, they now have a tax base. They now have jobs. They are beginning to generate sewer and water facilities in the larger villages. This is brought about only because of the reality of having a tax base and activity in their area.

If I may share with you, Mr. President, the issue of opening up the Arctic oil reserve of ANWR for a quick review, it involves Congress taking action on authorizing the lease-sale of 300,000 acres out of the 19 million acres of ANWR. That is a pretty small footprint. Most of ANWR, about 17 million acres, has been set aside in perpetuity by Congress in either wilderness or refuge. That is evidenced by the area in green. Congress set aside the yellow area in 1980 for a determination at a later time, whether to allow oil and gas leasing. The area in red is the small Eskimo village of Kaktovik. This is located on the map in this far corner of Alaska near the Canadian border.

The reality is that Prudhoe Bay, which is the largest oil field in North America and has been producing about 25 percent of the total crude oil produced in the United States for the last 18 years, is now in decline. As a consequence, geologists tell us this is the most likely area for a major oil discovery to be found.

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



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