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## Senate

(Legislative day of Tuesday, March 5, 1996)

The Senate met at 9:30 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:

Lord God, You are infinite, eternal, unchangeable, and the source of wisdom, holiness, goodness, and truth. Today we want to hold together two Biblical admonitions. We are told that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom but also that we are not to fear. Help us to distinguish between the humble awe and wonder that opens us to the gift of Your guidance, and the negative panic that so often grips our souls.

Give us a profound reverence in Your presence that keeps us on the knees of our hearts. May we never presume that we are adequate for a day's challenges until we have received Your strength and vision. Give us the confidence that comes from trust in Your reliability and resourcefulness. You never let us down and constantly lift us up.

Lord, liberate us from all minor fears that haunt us: the fear of hidden memories, the fear of imagined failure, and the fear of what is ahead. We may not know what the future holds, but we do know that You hold the future. In the name of Him whose constant watch word is "Fear not, I am with you!" Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The distinguished acting majority leader, Senator LOTT, is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today there will be a period for morning busi-

ness until the hour of 11 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for 5 minutes each, with the following exceptions: Senator FEINSTEIN, for 15 minutes; Senator DORGAN, for 15 minutes; Senator BINGAMAN, for 30 minutes; Senator THOMAS, for 30 minutes.

At the hour of 11 a.m., it will be the intention of the leadership to begin consideration of a resolution regarding the extension of the Whitewater Committee. Rollcall votes are, therefore, possible during today's session.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CAMPBELL). The clerk will call the roll. The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Senator from North Dakota is recognized for 15 minutes.

### THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE CHOICES TO MAKE

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, yesterday was so-called Junior Tuesday, where there were a lot of Presidential primaries in our country. It is one more step in this public discussion that happens every even numbered year under the Constitution in our country whereby the American people make choices about their future.

It is interesting to watch the political system this year because the discussion and debate in our political system is fascinating and interesting to me and, I think, millions of others. There is one area especially that has me confused. We have, at the same time, candidates for public office who will tell us that this country is in terrible shape, America is in deep trouble, the Congress cannot do anything right,

and America is going down the wrong road. We have other candidates who say that the solution to at least one of our problems is to build a fence between the United States and Mexico to keep immigrants out.

I scratch my head and wonder, why would we want to build a fence to keep people out? Why do people want to come? Because this is a wonderful place, a remarkable country, a country full of hope and opportunity, a country many others look to as a beacon of hope in the world. So what is the disconnection here? Why is it that one group of people say it is an awful place, this country is going to hell in a handbasket, and other people say we have too many people who want to come here, so let us build fences to keep them out?

I could make the case as a politician, find a lectern and an audience and go on the stump and tell people about America: There are 23,000 murders a year, and we are the murder capital of the world. The United States consumes 50 percent of the world's cocaine. There are 110,000 rapes in a year, and there are a million violent aggravated assaults in a year. Ten million people are looking for work, 25 million are on food stamps, and 40 million people are living in poverty. There will be a million and a quarter babies born this year without a father present at the birth, and 900,000 of those babies will never in their lifetimes learn the identity of their fathers.

I can talk about the challenges and the troubles in this country. We entertain ourselves with everybody's dysfunctional behavior. We, every day and every way, on television and elsewhere, hold it up to the light on Oprah and Phil and Geraldo and Ricki, all of those programs, and say, "Is this not ugly?" "Is this not awful?" Yes, it is ugly. But it is the exception. So it becomes entertainment, entertaining people with other people's dysfunctional behavior.

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



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