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Senate

The Senate met at 10:30 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:

Gracious God, we begin this week with three liberating convictions: You are on our side, You are by our side, and You are the source of strength inside. Help us to regain the confidence from knowing that You are for us and not against us. You have created us to know and love You and have called us to serve this Nation. You have programmed us for greatness by Your power, so help us place our trust in You, and live fully for You. We thank You that You are with us seeking to help us to know and do Your will. Guide us in the complicated issues we consider today. We invite You to take up residence in our minds to give us strength to see things from Your perspective. Grant us courage to give dynamic moral leadership to our Nation. May Your justice, righteousness, integrity, honesty, and truth be the identifiable qualities of our leadership. We commit all that we have and are to glorify You with our work today. In the name of our Lord. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from Wyoming is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. THOMAS. For the information of all Senators, this morning the Senate will begin 5 hours of debate on the Department of Defense authorization conference report. In accordance with the unanimous-consent agreement reached on Friday, the vote on the Department of Defense conference report will occur at 2:15 on Tuesday, and therefore there

will be no rollcall votes during today's session.

Also today, following the debate on the conference report, there will be a period for morning business with Senator DASCHLE or his designee in control of the time from 3:30 to 4:30 and Senator COVERDELL or his designee in control of the time from 4:30 to 5:30.

On Tuesday, the Senate will debate the Defense of Marriage Act beginning at 9:30 to 12:30, with a vote occurring on that measure immediately following the 2:15 vote on the Department of Defense conference report. After those two consecutive votes, there will be 30 minutes of debate to be followed by a vote on S. 2056, the employment discrimination bill.

Finally, as a reminder, following those votes on Tuesday, the Senate will begin consideration of the Treasury, Postal appropriations bill, with additional votes expected on that bill. All Senators can expect busy sessions this week with rollcall votes possible throughout each day and evening as the Senate completes action on the remaining appropriations bills.

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

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997—CONFERENCE REPORT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now proceed to the consideration of the conference report accompanying H.R. 3230, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee on conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3230) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1997 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe personnel strengths for such fiscal year for the Armed Forces, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses this report, signed by a majority of the conferees.

The Senate proceeded to consider the conference report.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of July 30, 1996.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time for debate on this conference report will be limited to 4 hours equally divided in the usual form, with 1 hour under the control of the Senator from Louisiana.

The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I am pleased to rise in support of the conference agreement on the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 1997. This agreement continues the work we began last year to keep the Department of Defense on a steady course as it heads into the 21st century. The legislation sends a signal that we remain strongly committed to support our men and women in uniform through funding for modernization and training as well as for quality-of-life programs for our military and their families.

This year, the Senate chaired the conference with the House. I am proud

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



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