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Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 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:

We can know the One who knows. Father, the very idea gives us inspiration and enthusiasm as we begin the work of this day. Our work has to do with thinking clearly about the issues before us. We feel fresh excitement about the day ahead when we contemplate the amazing fact that You who know everything and always will what is best for us, are willing to think through our thinking brains so we can discover truly creative solutions to our perplexities.

Form in our minds the mental picture of a successful agreement on the budget between the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the President. Now we thank You in advance that You will help us achieve this image of oneness and progress for Your glory.

We also are moved by the fact that You are Sovereign over the minds of people with whom we may have differed in the past. We open our minds to the possibility that You may choose to expand our understanding of issues through the insights You give them. We all are humbled by the fact that we all need knowledge from You, the One who knows and affirms our effort for oneness. We join with one another in confessing our need for You to guide our thinking and lead us to solutions that are maximum. Through our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, the distinguished Senator from Colorado, is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, today the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1023, the Treasury, general Government appropriations bill, with 10 minutes of debate remaining on the bill. At 10 a.m., a series of votes, possibly three, will occur on the remaining pending amendments to the Treasury, general Government appropriations bill, including a vote on final passage of S. 1023. Following the disposition of S. 1023, the Senate will resume consideration of the VA-HUD appropriations bill. Therefore additional votes will occur during today's session of the Senate.

As a reminder, the Senate will recess from the hours of 12:30 to 2:15 today for the weekly policy luncheons to meet.

On behalf of the leader, I thank my colleagues for their attention.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. INHOFE). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 1023, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1023) making appropriations for the Treasury Department, the U.S. Postal Service, the Executive Office of the President, and certain Independent Agencies, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Campbell (for DeWine) amendment No. 936, to prohibit the use of funds to pay for an abortion or pay for the administrative ex-

penses in connection with certain health plans that provide coverage for abortions.

Kohl (for Bingaman) amendment No. 937, to strike provisions prohibiting the use of appropriated funds for the sole source procurement of energy conservation measures.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent there be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to each of the votes in this series.

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

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, Senator BINGAMAN and Senator STEVENS have not yet arrived at the floor so, until they do, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Sam Rikkers, who is an intern with me, be granted the privilege of the floor during today's session of the Senate.

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

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I thank the Chair and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I ask the floor manager, I have one amendment that is going to be voted on in about 15 or 20 minutes, I understand. Is it appropriate to speak on that at this point?

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



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