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## Senate

The Senate met at 9 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:

Sovereign Father, as we begin this new day filled with responsibilities and soul-sized issues, we are irresistibly drawn into Your presence by the magnetism of Your love and our need for guidance. We come to You at Your invitation; in the quiet of intimate communion with You, the tightly wound springs of pressure and stress are released and a profound inner peace fills our hearts and minds.

We hear again the impelling cadences of the drumbeat of Your Spirit calling us to press on in the battle for truth, righteousness, and justice. Our minds snap to full attention, and our hearts salute You as Sovereign Lord. You have given us minds capable of receiving Your mind, an imagination able to envision Your plan and purpose for us, and a will ready to do Your will.

Help us to remember that no problem is too small to escape Your concern and no perplexity is too great to resist Your solutions. We know You will go before us to show us the way, behind us to press us forward, beside us to give us courage, above us to protect us, and within us to give us wisdom and discernment. Through our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, Senator COATS, is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. COATS. Mr. President, for the information of all Members, this morning the Senate will be in a period for morning business until the hour of 11 a.m. By consent, at 11 a.m., the Senate will begin consideration of S. 1033, the

Agriculture appropriations bill. The majority leader has indicated that it is his hope that the Senate will be able to complete action on the Agriculture appropriations bill during today's session of the Senate. Therefore, Members can anticipate rollcall votes throughout today's session of the Senate. However, as was announced last evening, no votes will occur prior to the hour of 4 p.m. today. Also, as previously announced, the Senate may begin consideration of the Commerce, Justice, State appropriations bill upon disposition of the Agriculture appropriations bill.

I thank my colleagues for their attention. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 [Mr. COATS]. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under a previous agreement, the Democratic leader, or his designee, is recognized to speak for up to 60 minutes.

### TAX CUTS

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, a number of us this morning want to visit about the issue of tax cuts. We are having a debate—I was going to say a dispute, but it is more a debate—in Congress, between the House and the Senate and between Members of both parties, about how taxes should be cut. It is clear now from the votes in the House and the Senate that there will be a tax cut. We do have bills in conference that call for a tax cut in a number of different ways—cuts in the income tax, cuts in estate tax, cuts in capital gains and a range of other

areas. But there is substantial debate about who gets what.

Mr. President, the debate is not idle, and it is not just political. I suppose there is some partisanship involved in this as well, but when you say that the Federal Government has the capability of reducing taxes for the American people, the question then is, for whom and by how much and with what purpose? The stakes are fairly large because we are talking about a fairly substantial tax reduction, and the question is how to divide that.

There has been a dispute on the floor of the Senate about what the numbers show and who puts together a chart that shows what part of the population will get how much in tax relief. There have been editorials written about that in the Washington Post, New York Times, and others and a substantial amount of analysis of these charts.

One thing to me is certain, however. There are impulses in Congress to define how we provide a tax cut in a narrow way in order that the tax cut ends up providing substantially greater benefits to those at the upper end of the economic ladder than those at the lower end of the economic ladder. I happen to come from a part of the country that largely believes that the economic engine in this country comes from work, from people who go out and work and toil all day. That represents the economic engine that keeps this country going. They earn a wage and they have a view about the future in this country.

If their view is optimistic, if their view is positive, then they make decisions with the money they have earned. They perhaps buy a washer or dryer, buy a car, buy a home, take a vacation. If their view is pessimistic or if their outlook is less than positive, they make decisions to defer those purchases. They don't buy a washer or dryer. They defer it. They don't buy a

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



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