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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 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:

Dear Father, thank You for this quiet moment with You when we can receive the peace of knowing we are loved and forgiven, the healing of hurts from harbored memories, the answers to problems that seem unsolvable, and a vision for our Nation that would otherwise be beyond human expectation. To know You is our greatest desire and to serve You is life's greatest delight.

Gracious Lord of all life, forgive our imposed dichotomy between the sacred and the secular. Every person, situation, and responsibility is sacred to You because everyone and everything belongs to You. Give us a renewed awareness that all we have and are is Your gift. May we cherish the wonder of life You have entrusted to us. May our gratitude be the motive for our work today in this Senate. We want our work to be an expression of our worship of You. Therefore, we make a renewed commitment to excellence in everything we do and say. In the name of Him who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. STEVENS. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I announce that this morning's session will be one where we resume consideration of the emergency supplemental appropriations bill, with hope of concluding action on the bill during today's session.

As under a previous consent agreement, from 12:30 to 2:15 the Senate will recess for the weekly policy luncheons to meet. As a reminder to all Members, the second cloture vote on H.R. 2646, the Coverdell A+ education bill, is scheduled to occur at 5:30 p.m. if an agreement cannot be reached prior to that time. In addition, by consent, all second-degree amendments to that legislation must be filed by 4:30 p.m.

Again, it is hoped that good progress can be made on the emergency supplemental appropriations bill during today's session. All Members should contact either Senator BYRD or myself regarding this legislation if they intend to offer an amendment as the Senate attempts to complete action on this supplemental appropriations bill before the cloture vote.

Also, it is hoped that headway will be made on the Coverdell education bill. In addition, the Senate may consider any executive or legislative items cleared for action. And, on behalf of the majority leader, I thank our colleagues for their attention to his message.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. STEVENS. For myself, let me say this, Mr. President. If we do get cloture on the Coverdell bill, that will mean we cannot finish this bill, the supplemental, until the cloture time has expired. We believe that we are very close to having cloture on the Coverdell bill, and it is imperative that we finish this supplemental bill so that when the House passes its bill we can go immediately to conference. It is our intent to take this bill through third reading and have it ready for immediate action without any further requests, based on a unanimous-consent agreement, to send the bill to the House for conference as soon as we are aware that the House bill has been received in the Senate.

That means it is imperative, if Senators believe, as I do, that our first job

must be to assure we do not take money from the defense accounts to repay the costs of the deployment that has already been made in Bosnia, already been made in southwest Asia. If we cannot get this bill passed before April 1, that money is going to start coming out of the readiness accounts that apply to the men and women in the armed services who are still deployed in the continental U.S. and throughout areas other than Bosnia and the Iraq area.

The consequence of not passing this bill before April 1 is that the people who may have to be sent over to replace those already deployed—and we are making our rotations every 6 months—might not have the readiness and the edge that they need to go into a combat area. It is just imperative that we pass this bill before April 1. I have said that before on the floor. I again urge Senators to realize there is a timeframe problem on this bill and we do not want it to get involved in waiting for the cloture period on the A+ bill to expire.

I hope Senators will contact us. We are more than willing to consider any amendment. I hope Senators will listen to us with regard to time limits on their amendments. And we do have a pending amendment. Senator ASHCROFT is here to present his amendment. As soon as that is over, we really have a schedule of amendments ready to proceed, and I hope Senators will come as we call them and assist us by entering into time agreements. The time we will be taking off for the period of the luncheons is certain.

I remind Senators, tonight we start a new routine—the leader's seminars that are going to take place, with the distinguished former majority leader coming at 6 p.m., in the Old Senate Chamber, for Members only. A chance to listen to the former majority leader,

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



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Senator Mansfield, I think is something we must all make time for. It is a memorable thing. We are starting, I think, a great new tradition in the Senate from today.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I have just a question of the floor manager. I have no amendments. I am quite prepared to vote at any time on this particular measure. I am just wondering if we are going to have any time prior to the 5:30 vote so we could discuss the Coverdell amendment. I want to accommodate the floor manager. I don't want to interrupt the orderly procedure. It is 9:40 now. I note we do have an issue before the Senate which is not directly related to the supplemental which will be taking up some time. So I am just wondering if there is any time that is preferable to the Senator, or whether there might be a designated period of time before a vote on the legislation of Senator COVERDELL, and maybe those that oppose it—not a lengthy time, but maybe there is a time that we could address it prior to 5 or 5:30 that would be convenient?

Mr. STEVENS. The Senator makes a good request, and I will consult with the majority leader on that. As the Senator knows, we took almost 2 hours yesterday on that bill. But I do think it would be a fair thing to have a period prior to the vote at 5:30 so both sides might state their positions.

It is not our intention this morning to have any morning hour time. We have Senator ASHCROFT's amendment pending. Senator HUTCHISON is waiting to bring up an amendment, and there are other amendments waiting in line behind that. So it is our hope that we can dispose of many of those this morning if possible. And if we can, that will mean we can open up some time later in the afternoon for a period for the discussion of the Senator from Massachusetts. I hope that is agreeable.

Mr. KENNEDY. I appreciate the cooperation and courtesy of the Senator. I see Senator ASHCROFT on the floor now. I know he wants to address the comptime issue, which is not directly related. I am prepared to respond to that. But, again, I have no interest in taking us off the measure which we have before us. I just want to cooperate with the floor manager on it. I was unaware that this amendment was coming up, but that's life around here.

But I want to cooperate with the Senator from Alaska in any way, so they can move the process forward. As I say, I am ready to vote on the supplemental now. I do not intend to either speak or offer amendments on it.

Mr. STEVENS. This amendment was offered last evening and is the pending amendment. It needs to be disposed of. I hope as soon as possible we will dispose of this amendment and move on to another amendment that Senator HUTCHISON also discussed last night, and that is the amendment pertaining to some conditions on the Bosnia deployment. That is relevant to the

money in the bill. We expect to get to that as soon as possible.

But I commit to the Senator from Massachusetts, we will notify him if there is a lull in activities here and try to accommodate his request for some morning hour time. Senator COVERDELL still has about 20 minutes coming under the agreement we reached yesterday for equal time, under the discussion that took place yesterday, but now that has to be accommodated, and we will do our best to do so.

I yield to Senator ASHCROFT.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR NATURAL DISASTERS AND OVERSEAS PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. 1768, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1768) making emergency supplemental appropriations for recovery from natural disasters, and for overseas peacekeeping efforts, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Stevens (for Kyl) amendment No. 2079, to provide contingent emergency funds for the enhancement of a number of theater missile defense programs.

Ashcroft amendment No. 2080, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide to private sector employees the same opportunities for time-and-a-half compensatory time off and bi-weekly work programs as Federal employees currently enjoy to help balance the demands and needs of work and family, and to clarify the provisions relating to exemptions of certain professionals from the minimum wage and overtime requirements of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 2080

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I appreciate this opportunity to spend a few moments speaking about two of America's most fundamental values. These values are embraced by our people across the Nation from sea to shining sea. If we were to inventory values among the American people, I think these would percolate to the top. They are the values of family and the values of work. These values come together when we think about how our workplaces impact families.

Sometimes when they come together, it is through collision. This collision takes place when the value of family conflicts with the value of work—the workplace actually competes with the family and the family's needs. Sometimes, though, they can come together

through cooperation instead of by collision. I think that is what we ought to seek to encourage in our culture that these two most important values of our culture—work and family—should be able to coexist and to cooperate. They must be able to coexist and cooperate to build a strong America. But when one of these values undermines, erodes or undercuts the other value, we develop tensions that keep us from operating at our highest and best.

How we resolve the particular conflicts between these values that are important will determine how well we do in the next century. Most of us want to be survivors in the next century; we don't want to be succubers. We want to be swimmers; we don't want to be sinkers. We want America to continue to define the world culture. We want the 21st century to be marked as an American century. We can do that if the Congress builds an important framework which allows people to respect these values in cooperation rather than in conflict. If we make it possible for the value of work to be a value which can be elevated without undermining or eroding the value of family.

So it is important for us to make sure that, as a Government, that we allow rules to exist and we provide a framework in which both the value of work and the value of family can flourish. Without hard work, we will never make it. Without strong families, we will never make it. Without finding a way to harmonize these competing interests—we will never be able to succeed in the next century.

Since 1965, the amount of time that parents spend with their children has dropped 40 percent. This is a decrease of almost half of the amount of time that parents spend with their children. This does not necessarily threaten the work part of the equation, but it certainly indicates that there is a serious challenge to the family side of the equation. These two values of work and family must work together—must be elevated together. And if we have elevated work to the detriment of family, we have to find out ways, we have to seek out ways, we have to search for ways to make it possible for families to spend more time together.

A 1993 study found that 66 percent—two out of every three adults surveyed nationwide—wanted to spend more time with their children.

How can we begin to restore a balance? How can we restore the capacity of families to have that kind of chemistry within them that builds the strong sense of loyalty, of belonging, and of confidence that provides the basis for transmitting values from one generation to the next?

The family is the best department of education; it is the best department of social services and health; it is the best employment training in the world. If we have strong families, we will succeed.

How can we make it possible for these 66 percent of American adults