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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:

Gracious Father, we need You. Our hearts are filled with grief over the death of Senator PAUL COVERDELL. The Senate has lost a great friend, fellow leader, distinguished American, and outstanding legislator. We praise You for his intelligence, his integrity, and his intentionality. No one worked harder, longer, with greater commitment than this truly good man. He spelled love l-o-y-a-l-t-y and gained the respect, admiration, and esteem of Senators and staff alike. Lord, we'll miss the Senator's smile, his warmth, his caring concern. You have enriched our lives through this kind and gracious Georgian. Bless his wife Nancy. Comfort her and give her courage this morning. Tenderly watch over his dear mother and family. Uplift the Senator's staff whose faithfulness and admiration he was given with such enthusiasm.

Now Father, we reaffirm our conviction that death is not an ending, but a transition in eternal life, and only a small part of the whole of eternity. So help us to live our lives more fully, more selflessly for the cause of democracy, and more completely in trust in You. In You we live and move and have our being—forever. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable WAYNE ALLARD, a Senator from the State of Colorado, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

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

SCHEDULE

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, today the Senate will resume debate on the Agriculture appropriations bill, with amendments in order. Senators who have amendments are encouraged to work with the bill managers on a time to come to the floor to offer and debate their amendments.

Also, during today's session, Senators are welcome to come to the floor to share their thoughts and memories of our former friend and colleague, Senator PAUL COVERDELL.

For the information of all Senators, funeral services are being arranged, and Senators will be notified with the specifics as soon as they become available.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2886

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for its second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2886) to provide for retail competition for the sale of electric power, to authorize States to recover transition costs, and for other purposes.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I object to further proceedings on this bill at this time.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The bill will be placed on the calendar.

The Senator from Nevada.

REMEMBERING SENATOR PAUL COVERDELL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I learned shortly before Senator LOTT came to the floor last night that Senator COVERDELL had passed away. I felt it was in my best interest to leave at that time and not be present on the floor, as I usually am.

It was unique, in that I am in the minority—Senator COVERDELL was in the majority—that I got to know him as well as I did. I always knew that things were moving along and that we were going to get legislation completed when I would look over and Senator COVERDELL had been called into the Chamber by Senator LOTT to help move legislation.

As I look back, I remember the bankruptcy legislation. We started out with a little over 300 amendments on that legislation. Everyone thought it was futile to even try to pass it, but, of course, Senator COVERDELL came in and worked with me and the Senators on his side and my side, and we were able to get that legislation cleared and basically completed. That was the story for many, many different pieces of legislation.

I got to know him. He was very calm and deliberate and extremely courteous and polite—a real gentleman. I think it speaks volumes to recognize that Senator LOTT's No. 1 person he called on when there was trouble on the floor was PAUL COVERDELL. I think it speaks volumes to indicate that Governor Bush's No. 1 person in the Senate was PAUL COVERDELL.

He was someone that the people of Georgia will miss, this country will miss, the Senate will miss. I personally will miss him.

I have the honor of working on the minority side to help move legislation along. I personally will miss him. He was very, very good at being a legislator, in addition, obviously, to being such a good friend to everyone.

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

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