

RECOGNITION OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

UNITED STATES-INDIA NUCLEAR AGREEMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I think it is so important that we do whatever we can to pass this nuclear agreement that has been negotiated with India. India is the largest democracy in the world and we have had such tremendous relations with them over the last number of years. I think it would send a great sign to the rest of the world that we are able to work on issues of this importance and actually get it done. I surely hope we can do this. I feel confident we can. There are amendments and people can debate them. When the managers of the bill have heard enough, if necessary they can move to table, or whatever it takes to move these along. Senator BIDEN on Tuesday said there are a lot of these amendments he is aware of that they could work out or accept.

So I am hopeful we can finish today, tonight, or tomorrow, and there is no reason we shouldn't be able to. We have a number of amendments that have been locked in and there is no way this matter should not be completed. I think it is very important that we go into the Thanksgiving period with knowing that we have been able to work out something between two great democracies.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I will be back with the plans here shortly after I talk to the Democratic leader, and in the meantime we will be in a period of morning business. Again, the United States-India nuclear agreement is something we will complete before we leave and is the order of the day. We should be able to go to that very early this morning, maybe as soon as 20 minutes from now. That will be the plan, to proceed through those amendments. There is one amendment we may have to go into a closed session to debate, and the details will be announced for that as well.

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

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Delaware is recognized.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, the Senator from Minnesota, Mr. COLEMAN, and I would ask unanimous consent for each of us to sort of pool our 10 minutes apiece and take maybe the next 20 minutes to share—and some of our colleagues who are going to come by and talk as well—about the role our faith plays in the work we do here. If that might be acceptable, I would ask unanimous consent.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, the elections are behind us now and we are looking forward to the next Congress which will be seated on January 4—the 110th Congress. We have in town a number of newly elected Senators and their spouses. A number of us—Senator ALEXANDER, Senator VOINOVICH, Senator PRYOR, and myself—have been involved, along with the Secretary of the Senate, in holding orientation for new Senators and their spouses. On Tuesday night we were over at the National Archives and we had the opportunity to have a reception there and a dinner. The reception turned out to be a tour of the National Archives and the opportunity to see firsthand original copies of the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, handwritten letters from George Washington to all kinds of people, and from Abraham Lincoln to all kinds of people. We actually looked at the original Bill of Rights where we found that there were actually 12 amendments proposed to the Constitution, not 10. Two were not actually adopted. It was interesting to see and to go back over 200 years to the history and formation of our country, to focus on it and to think about it and reflect on it.

When the Constitutional Convention was held, just up the Delaware River from where I live in Wilmington, DE, and up in Philadelphia, whenever the Founding Fathers were getting into a tough time trying to come to consensus or agreement on one issue or the other that they were grappling with, a lot of times they would take a break and pray about it. When the inauguration of President Washington occurred in New York City, when they finished the inauguration, they didn't go off and hold big parties and balls, but they actually went to a church and prayed together and had a worship service. In fact, I am told over in the

House of Representatives, when our country was young, President Jefferson was participating in worship services held there. Even now, 207 years later, we still begin each day's session here in the Senate, as they do in the House, with a prayer. We have Bible study groups that meet on Thursday with the Senate Chaplain, Barry Black. We have done that for a number of years. Senator COLEMAN, who has been one of our leaders in a Wednesday morning prayer breakfast, and MARK PRYOR from Arkansas have led that for a number of years.

So faith, from the beginning of our foundation as a country, has been important to us, to guide us as a nation, and to guide us today in our own personal lives.

When the Constitution was written and the Bill of Rights was written, the idea was not to establish an organized religion; the idea was to make sure people were free to practice whatever faith they wanted, and to be respectful of people of different faiths and the fact that people can worship as they see fit or choose not to worship at all. One of the strengths of our Nation is our faith, but another of the strengths of our Nation is the respect we have for people of different faiths. We have people in this body who are Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish. We worship the same God, just a bit differently.

One of the things we try to do during the course of the week is to use our faith. Whether we happen to be Presbyterian, Mormon, or Jewish, how do we use that faith to help guide us in the policies we adopt for our country and for the people we represent? I feel fortunate to live in a country where we are free to worship God as we see fit. I think there is a real opportunity here for us in the Senate as we try to put our country back together and begin to work together after a rough-and-tumble election to find ways that we can use our faith to figure out our path, and to better ensure the people in this country have health care, that folks have decent jobs, that folks get a good education, and that we can bind the wounds we have opened over the last several months and to move forward as a nation.

I say how pleased I am to have a chance to work with Senator COLEMAN from Minnesota and how much I appreciate the great leadership he has shown in bringing a bunch of us together on Wednesday mornings. I usually can't get here on Wednesday morning. I go back and forth on the train to Delaware almost every night, so I can't be there for many Wednesday mornings for that type of fellowship. But I often-times join my colleagues, including Senator LINCOLN of Arkansas and others, on Thursday right down the hall here for a Bible study group that is a little bit like an adult Sunday school class with the Senate Chaplain, affording us the opportunity to read scripture together, reflect together, to pray for one another, and to be nourished spiritually.

I am delighted to be here with Senator COLEMAN today, and I thank him for his leadership.

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I thank Senator CARPER for his leadership. Next week is actually National Bible Week. I think it has been celebrated since 1941. The Senator from Delaware is one of the cochairs of that. Part of what I think is the purpose of it and the importance of it is to reflect a little bit on the value, the importance of the Bible and of faith in our lives. And we do bring different faith perspectives and different historical perspectives. I have a great sense of almost envy a little bit about being from a State that goes back to the very beginning, to the time of the Founders. The Minnesota journey has been a little briefer journey, a challenging journey when the early settlers were coming out and landing. It was pretty cold in the winter and it could be blistering hot in the summer. You kind of reflect on your own mortality. To this day, we stand now in the 21st century, and one of the things faith does—and we heard it from the Chaplain, if you listened to the Chaplain's intonation when the prayer began, calling upon God for wisdom, in a sense humility, that even in this august Chamber it is important for us and our colleagues to have. I think faith gives you that, requires that of you. Alvin Toffler, in "Future Shock," talked about the geometric rate of change—everything is moving so quickly, and reflected in that is the importance of some island of stability. One of the things that faith does for those of us in this body is, in a sea of change, it provides us with stability. It is an island. Everything else is moving very quickly around us, but if you look into the Bible, look into the Hebrew Torah, you find those kinds of rooted values—the social compact, the necessity to help the poor, the necessity to raise your voices on behalf of those who are oppressed, in bondage. All those values are rooted in these books that we still, then, reflect on and study today. I think it is important for us to do that.

One of the things, by the way, we have been doing is we have a National Prayer Breakfast. Senator PRYOR and I got to chair that this year. I recently put into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the entire program, the transcript. I urge my colleagues to read it, take a look at it. There are fascinating reflections from King Abdallah from Jordan. The rock star Bono was the chief speaker. He said he is not a man of the cloth, unless your cloth is leather, but then he went on to talk about his own faith journey. He went on to say he used to wake up all the time and pray that God blessed a certain thing that he did. Now what he talks about is looking at and kind of putting his efforts into the things that God wants done, that He has already blessed, trying to figure out what is the right thing to do.

At a time when the partisan divide is so great—we see it on C-SPAN—what I

think our faith has done, what it does for my colleagues and for me in fellowship with my colleagues is, for those brief—those moments, I would not say brief moments; actually, they are extended moments—it allows us to get past that and recognize what is in the heart of a colleague.

In the end, I hope it is a mitigating factor, something that then lessens the divide that we see so often played out on the screen and played out on TV. The things that bind us are so much more powerful than the things that separate us. We do it, I believe, with a sense of humility.

I was the mayor of Saint Paul, MN, the capital city. We say Saint Paul is the city of two cathedral domes. There is the dome of the State capitol and then the dome of the magnificent Cathedral of Saint Paul. The dome of the cathedral is on the highest plane of the city, and I say it is a reflection of who is in charge, and it is not the Governor or State legislature, if we reflect on that in a positive way.

There are mad men who use religion and holy books to do terrible things, but those are mad men. That is not what faith is all about. At a time of great change and the world moving so quickly, I know for me, personally, and my colleagues, we find refuge, we find solace, we find a sense of peace in reflecting upon the traditions that brought us to this floor, to this moment, and hopefully that allows us to operate in a way in which we do those good things—those good things that we see ourselves.

One of my favorite quotes is from Maimonides, who says each of us must act as if the world were held in balance and any single act of goodness on our part could tip the scale. I believe that every day of my life. That is what faith brings to me and brings to us.

I see my colleague from Arkansas is here. Yesterday, we were visiting the new Senators, our new colleagues, and kind of moving them to this family. I will, again, say to my new colleagues that I urge them, on the floor of the Senate, to participate in the National Prayer Breakfast. The President is there, the Joint Chiefs of Staff and members of the Supreme Court and leaders from 170-something countries. This is not just a Senate thing or a U.S. thing, this is a global thing of great importance, as we saw in our last prayer breakfast, where you have King Abdallah, a direct descendant of Mohammed, NORM COLEMAN, a Jewish boy from Minnesota, and MARK PRYOR, a Christian from Arkansas, coming together on the platform. I hope that has meaning beyond that single day.

With that, I see my colleague from Arkansas and yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mrs. LINCOLN. Mr. President, I am so proud to join my colleagues this morning, and I especially thank my colleague from Delaware for his service as the Senate chairperson of the Na-

tional Bible Week this year and for preserving time this morning for our observance of this annual celebration. I also want to say a very special thanks to my colleague, NORM COLEMAN, the Senator from Minnesota, who does a tremendous job. We work together on so many different things, but yesterday it was great to be able to sit down and visit with the new Members, the new Senators coming into this body and talk to them about how to keep their life rich; not just to do their jobs as Senators but to take care of themselves and to make sure that their journey in life stays strong. We all know, in this journey that we all share on this Earth, this incredible blessing we have been given to live this journey here on Earth, if we keep that journey strong, then we will always be better Senators.

I could not have found a better partner in communicating that than my good colleague from Minnesota, and I appreciate him so much for that.

I am very grateful to be here to speak about the Bible, in recognition of this annual National Bible Week and certainly its importance in my life, what it has meant to me. In my family, growing up in east Arkansas, my dad was a farmer. We are a seventh-generation Arkansas farm family. We go back to our roots there along the Mississippi River. Actually, the first Lambert, which is my maiden name, who came to Arkansas was a Presbyterian minister who was sent as a missionary to the Native Americans who lived in that area. It was long before Arkansas was a State, and again it is a huge part of my heritage where, as a Presbyterian minister and a Christian, Rev. Jordan B. Lambert came across the border as a missionary to carry his faith into the West.

In my family, we were all introduced to the Bible at a very early age, and we were taught how to turn to its teachings early and often for guidance in our daily lives and what we needed to make this journey, our journey, each of us, our individual journey on this Earth, a full one, one that not only was fulfilling for us but, more importantly, fulfilling to our fellow man.

I can remember, as a young teenager, coming to Sunday school on Sunday mornings. I remember one of my Sunday school teachers who would take us every Sunday into our Sunday school room, and we made this huge Bible village out of clay and papier-mache. It was wonderful because it taught us so much of the times, of the Old Testament and the New Testament. It was incredible how we built this.

I realize now, later in life, that that was a time to reflect, reflect on the writings and the times that the Bible brings to us because, as we sat there, very curiously and very diligently creating out of clay and papier-mache this Bible village, we talked. We talked to each other. We talked to the Sunday school teacher, the adult who was there to help guide us. As she read Scripture to us and we made these

things, we talked about our experiences as young teenagers. We talked about what we were going through in school, the cruel words that others may have presented to us or the new student who had come to class and who was not being well received or someone whose family was ill or had a tremendous tragedy. We talked about these things as we created this village, and then we realized, through those Bible teachings and through those stories that we, too, were living that word—hopefully—and learning how better to live that word in our teenage years and in our adult years.

Without question, for me, the Bible is the most profound book in life, and there is no doubt that its lessons shape the type of person I am; the type of person I strive to become each and every day, working hard to do my best; the type of parent I want as an example for my children as they grow up and they learn these stories; and the type of Senator I want to be to help lead this country.

It is no secret to any of us that the Members of this incredible body are very blessed and fortunate in so many different ways. But what does that mean, exactly, and particularly to those who are scholars of Bible? I am not a Bible scholar, I wish I were, but I do look to the Bible for that guidance and as a part of my faith, as the Senator from Delaware said, it is a light. It is a lamp unto my feet. But the Bible teaches me: To whom much is given, much is required. If you look around throughout this body and realize how blessed we truly are, our devotion to public service, hopefully, comes from a desire to live by the types of teachings that the Bible gives us and that is to help the least among us. It doesn't just teach us to clothe those who are naked. It doesn't just teach us to feed those who are hungry. Those are the important parts. But I never shall forget a lesson I learned in person working in a soup kitchen in downtown Washington, cleaning up tables after we, our Bible study group, had served a breakfast, which we did on a monthly basis. I was cleaning up those tables and moving to what was the next thing in life, which was heading off to work, there was a man sitting at the last table and, as I began to break it down, I asked him:

Are you still hungry? Is there something more that you would like?

No, just 10 minutes of your time. Could you just please sit and visit with me for 10 minutes?

I realized it was not just the nourishment that he needed. He needed his soul to be fed as well.

If I think about all of the most important teachings in the Bible, I think about how important it is for us to nourish one another, Democrats to nourish Republicans and Republicans to nourish Democrats; how important it is in this body that we feed one another's souls with the kind of loving care that we are taught about in the Bible.

As a Senator, I thoroughly believe that government can be a weapon of good, if we adhere to and follow the basic message of the Bible's teaching of love. I think that is, without a doubt, the most clear message that comes there—love, care, and respect for our fellow man.

Perhaps my favorite Bible lesson proclaims: Let us not love in word but in deed and in truth. In an environment that gets way too political, and so often it does, it is so incredibly important for all of us to look to that lesson.

I thank you, Mr. President, and especially thank my colleagues, for coming here to recognize what an important role the Bible does play in so many of our lives and what a wonderful opportunity it gives us to nourish each other's soul on a daily basis.

I yield to the Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, how much time do we have on our 20 minutes?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator has 55 seconds.

Mr. REID. Will the Senator yield for a unanimous consent request?

Mr. CARPER. Of course.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 5384

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the unanimous consent for consideration of the United States-India legislation, that during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 16, the Senate proceed to consideration of the Agriculture appropriations bill, at a time to be determined by the majority leader after consultation with the Democratic leader; provided further that following the statements of the Chairman and ranking member, Senator CONRAD be recognized in order to offer a first-degree amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection? The Senator from North Dakota is recognized.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I shall not object, Senator CONRAD is not on the floor. I am certain this will be acceptable to him. His amendment will modify the disaster aid amendment that was put in the Senate appropriations bill in the Senate committee. I wish to be recognized following Senator CONRAD's statement on this introduction, to be part of that discussion.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. What this means is, to clarify, in a few minutes we will be going to the United States-India legislation. At some point over the course of the day, following getting on that bill, the amendments in that bill, we will have the opportunity to proceed to the Ag bill.

Let me restate our intentions to complete the United States-India legislation either today or tomorrow. We

will complete that legislation. We have a whole list of amendments that were by unanimous consent listed. I think we can condense those amendments down on that legislation. We will be able to do that, I believe. If we do that, we should be able to address all those amendments and have that legislation completed.

I urge all of our colleagues to keep their statements fairly brief on that legislation. Let's get to the amendment process in order to complete that bill tonight so that we will not have to be back tomorrow.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. How much time do we have?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Delaware has a minute remaining in morning business.

SHOWING FAITH BY DEEDS

Mr. CARPER. Let me close by saying a special thanks to my friend from Arkansas, BLANCHE LINCOLN, and to our colleague, NORM COLEMAN from Minnesota, for talking with us for a few minutes today about their faith. One of my favorite verses of Scripture comes out of the little Book of James, near the end of the New Testament, where we read: Show me your faith by your words and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

The most important thing is not how high we jump up in church but what we do when our feet hit the ground, and our feet hit the ground here every day of the week at about 9:30.

As we go forward, none of us is perfect. All of us make mistakes—God knows I do. But I would just remind us all it is important not just to talk about our faith but that we try to show our faith by our deeds.

Having said that, I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MURKOWSKI). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

AGRICULTURE APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, at some point today following the debate with respect to the India security agreement, we will by unanimous consent have an opportunity to have the agriculture appropriations bill on the floor. My colleague Senator CONRAD will offer an amendment to that bill which will amend a provision that I added to the bill in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

My colleague Senator BURNS and I added a farm disaster amendment. My colleague Senator CONRAD has been working on an amendment that will expand that to include the 2007 disaster