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Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, July 10, 1995)

The Senate met at 9 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. We have a guest Chaplain this morning. When I first came to the Senate he was my press officer. Later my legislative assistant, later my administrative assistant. One of the finest men I have ever known. He is now a lay preacher, author of many books, and an outstanding citizen.

We are honored to have him with us, Harry Dent, of Columbia, SC.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Harry Shuler Dent, Sr., of Columbia, SC, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Your name. May Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. May all Americans, and especially the membership of this august body of distinguished lawmakers, be a part of Your solution to the evils, the moral meltdown, and the hurts that plague our country and people across the world. May we be Your guiding star of moral and spiritual righteousness for all Americans and all the people of the world.

Please take us as a nation and change us individually and collectively where we need to be transformed so we may be guardians and purveyors of Your great commission and the great commandment as presented to us by Jesus. Use us to turn America and the world to Your will, for Your glory and for the good of all mankind. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, this morning leader time has been reserved. There will be a period for morning business until the hour of 10 a.m.

Following morning business, it will be our intention to go to the legislative branch appropriations bill. I hope we can get permission or clearance to do that. There will be rollcall votes, I understand, on that. It is also my hope that we can bring up the military construction appropriations bill. That would need the consent of our colleagues.

We need to do six appropriations bills before the August recess—whenever that starts. This will be very helpful. We will at least complete action on two of those this week. We still have the matter of the rescissions package, which I am not going to worry about anymore, for the next few days. I had it up to my eyeballs with the rescissions package.

Then we have also S. 343. There could be a vote on cloture today on regulatory reform. It seems to me we have just about reached—we have been negotiating, I think, in good faith.

We have had people on both sides. I think we are prepared to make some additional changes if that will be helpful. But I do not see much movement on the other side, as far as votes are concerned. It seems to me that that vote could come today. I will be visiting with the distinguished Democratic leader, Senator DASCHLE, and will make a judgment, whether that be today, tomorrow, or next week.

I did indicate to the President that I was inclined to accede to his request for Bosnia, but I want to talk to some of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who are cosponsors. I certainly want to cooperate with the President where possible. I have indicated to the Democratic leader if we could work out some agreement on a vote on that

early next week, that we certainly would try to accommodate the President's request.

Beyond that, depending on what happens today, we could be on the Ryan White measure tomorrow. On Monday, we will be considering gift and lobbying reform. On Tuesday, we hope to go to foreign ops and the State Department authorization bill. That will probably take at least 2 or 3 days.

I advise my colleagues, as far as we know at this point, there will be votes throughout today. There will be votes tomorrow. If there should be any change, I will certainly come to the floor and make the announcements so my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will have notice.

I reserve the balance of my leader's time.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ASHCROFT). Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business not to extend beyond the hour of 10 a.m. with Senators permitted to speak therein not to exceed 5 minutes each.

RESCISSIONS

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I will manage the minority leader's time. Mr. President, I want to respond to the majority leader in a very positive, and by no means personal, way.

Mr. President, first of all, I thank the majority leader. He is quite right. There have been negotiations that have gone on for some time. I believe that we would be ready very soon to go forward on the rescissions package.

There were several issues. The majority leader has now been working with us. We have agreed to have debate on a number of amendments—one dealing with the low-income energy assistance,

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



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and the second one, which I really want to talk about and hope that there will be some change and restore some of the funding for this program. The other has to do with the job training and education programs.

Mr. President, the only disagreement—and I believe it will be worked out—has to do with a counseling program which, I say to my colleague from Missouri, I would like to talk about for a long time. I will not, because other colleagues want to speak, and I will get a chance to speak later.

This is an interesting program, Mr. President. The ratio, Members will like this, of paid staff to beneficiaries is 1 to 2,000. It is not topped down. It is out in the States. This is a program that is extremely important. It is what we are all about. It is basically a few paid staff that in turn nurture a lot of volunteers that in turn provide seniors with just basic information about their health care coverage. People sometimes find that bewildering, and sometimes there is unfortunately some rip-off when it comes to supplementary Medicare coverage. It is extremely successful.

The majority leader said last night, and he is quite correct, that he has now been working with us and actually is helping me to restore the funding to this program. It does not require a lot of resources. We are talking about restoring \$5 million. It was a \$10 million program. By the way, Mr. President, sometimes these numbers seem small to Members but this program makes a huge and positive impact in the lives of a good many very vulnerable citizens.

The only confusion and disagreement was that I was waiting for the reprogramming of this. I thank the White House for their help. I certainly would like to thank the minority leader. What I wanted to be careful about, and this just simply had not been worked out yet, is that the reprogramming was not a "rob Peter to pay Paul." I did not want to take this money from another program that was extremely helpful, for example, to seniors.

So, Mr. President, the only delay, and I think it is a very slight delay, and I see no reason why we cannot go forward, is to make sure we have a reprogramming done. I also wanted to make sure that my colleagues had some understanding on appropriations. I mean, both the majority chair of the committee, Senator HATFIELD, and the minority chair, Senator BYRD, I wanted to make sure that they were fully apprised of where we were going on the reprogramming. That just did not happen last night. That is the one missing piece. It all goes together. There would not be a need for a third amendment if we work that out. I think we will.

Mr. President, I will just say what I have said all along, which is—I am speaking for myself; I think Senator MOSELEY-BRAUN would say the same thing—we really believed that it was important that the bill not just go

through here without some debate and discussion. We wanted an opportunity to have some amendments. We have agreed to a limited time. We are ready to go forward, and I think we can.

Again, I say to the majority leader and I say to colleagues, at this point in time we have one piece to work out. I believe that will happen this morning. I see there is no reason why we cannot get the reprogramming part taken care of—that will be the piece that the majority leader and I are now working together on, which is of course always the best way to proceed, if you can—and then we will have a limit, time limit on two amendments that will deal with the two other areas. Then we will have a vote.

Mr. President, I say this morning because I am quite confident that we can move forward and I will be ready to do so when the majority leader is ready to do so. We will just wait to work this out on the reprogramming part, and then we should be ready to go. That is what we have been aiming for all along.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

THE RESCISSIONS BILL

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I am encouraged that we could have some movement on the rescissions bill. There are many important issues that are facing this body right now. I happen to think that regulatory reform is extremely important, not only for small businesses, for farmers, but for the growth of our American economy.

But, as we look at these long-range programs, we have a very severe short-term problem. I have the distinction of chairing the Veterans Administration, HUD, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee. This so-called rescissions bill is actually an emergency and rescissions bill. It is the supplemental emergency bill because the Federal Emergency Management Agency is getting very close to running out of money. We have had disasters, such as the California earthquakes and fires and floods, we have had the bombing in Oklahoma City, we have had floods in the Midwest, and the money available for FEMA is about at its end. Nobody expects a disaster to occur and the Feds to say, "Sorry, we cannot come. We do not have any money." But we are about at that point.

That is why this bill, the emergency supplemental and emergency rescissions bill, is vitally important. That is No. 1.

Second, we have had our defense budget drawn down because of police actions, responding to needs in various parts of the country. The distinguished chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee will tell you, if we do not get this bill through, in September we are going to have to shut down operations for ships, for airplanes. That means that American pi-

lots, who have to maintain their currency, will not be getting that currency. It will be dangerous to them.

These are the needs for the emergency supplemental. But let me tell you first hand, as one who worries every day about funding the vitally important functions of assisted housing, of medical care for veterans, of EPA, NASA, and others, what is going to happen if we do not pass the rescissions bill. This is not a question of reprogramming and we are going to fine tune things here and there. We have taken a rescission hit. We have, in this rescissions bill, given up \$8 billion in budget authority. That is money appropriated for the current year but which will not be spent until future years.

The reason we had to do that is because HUD, primarily, has been spending out of control. And, in HUD, when you appropriate money 1 year, you get the budget authority out there but it starts spending out in future years. So 60 percent of the dollars that will be spent next year in the subcommittee that I chair are spent as a result of previous years' appropriations. And our limit, what we can spend in that year, is determined by the actual outlays.

We have, in all, over \$6 billion of budget authority rescinded in HUD under this bill. We have worked with Housing and Urban Development, we have worked with our colleagues on the other side, and while nobody likes to cut budget authority, they have agreed that this is the least harmful.

Let me tell you what happens if that rescissions bill does not go through. If that rescissions bill does not go through, we have another billion dollars of outlays in the Department of Housing and Urban Development that we cannot control. And that is likely to mean that we will not have the money to continue to provide public housing in federally assisted housing for all of the 4.8 million families that depend upon HUD funding for their housing during the coming fiscal year of 1996. We are going to be hard pressed to fund that housing and other vitally important programs like CDBG, and HOME, and the work of the Veterans Administration and NASA, as it is. I think we can do it if this rescissions bill passes.

If this rescissions bill continues to languish as people try to work out reprogramming for the last 2½ months of this fiscal year, if we do not get the rescissions bill, those who hold up the rescissions bill will have to go home and explain why some people are going to be thrown out, thrown out of federally assisted housing they now occupy.

The subcommittee on Labor and HHS has \$1.3 billion in outlays that depend upon this bill. This rescissions bill is vitally important. I urge my colleagues to move it.

Mr. DORGAN addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.